

THE CHART

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE, JOPLIN, MO 64801-1595
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ARTS SHOWCASE:

In the waning days of his senior year, Ray St. Ledger prepares for his Southern finale...page 9



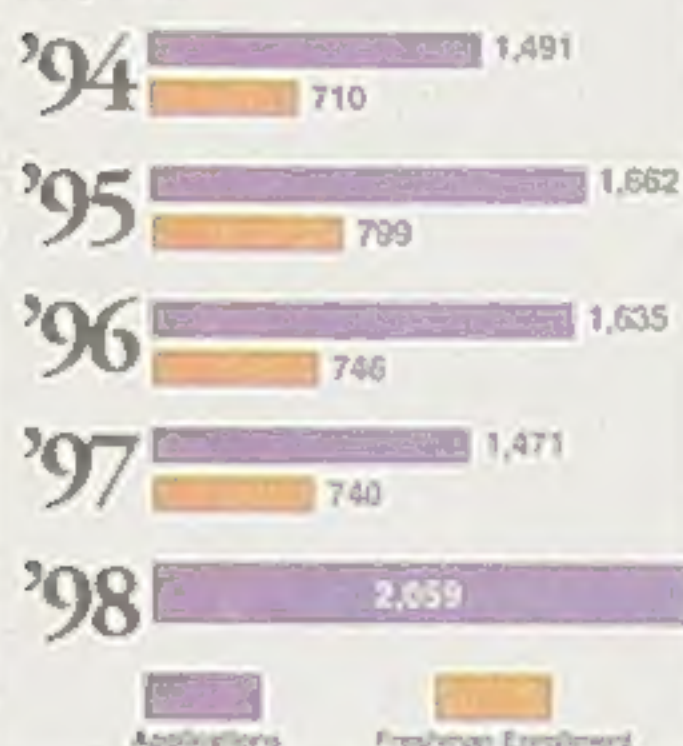
SPORTS:

The Lion baseball team sweeps twin-bill...page 12

ENROLLMENT

Applying within

The College has seen application numbers jump and dip over the last few years.



J.L. GRIFFIN/The Chart

Fall applications jump 40 percent

Interest in College rises after four-year decline

By JEFF BILLINGTON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Missouri Southern may have an enrollment boom next fall if the 40 percent increase in applications for admission means anything. "Just because you have 40 percent in the applications doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to experience 40 percent increase in enrollment," said Derek Skaggs, director of enrollment services. Skaggs said his staff noticed this 40 percent increase in the bimonthly reports it

uses to check the rate of applications. "This report essentially tells us where we stand with all of our applications," he said. "We usually start seeing trends generally in January." Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president, said as of now no limit has been set on the number of students accepted, but it would be a substantial increase if they all decided to enroll. "I attribute a lot of it to his (Skaggs) work and his staff's work, plus I think everybody's getting a little more involved," Tiede said. "Really, everybody should be concerned about recruiting and retention as well as whatever their primary jobs are." Skaggs said national trends could be one of the reasons for this large increase.

"High school students now apply to several different colleges; they don't just apply to one," he said. "Some students may apply to five, 10, some even 15 different schools." Skaggs said national trends are not the only reason for the increase. It can actually be traced to several factors. "The demographics, the advertising, the TV advertisements — we have a great product here, and the word's starting to get out on the great faculty, the outstanding programs, the small classes, the personal attention students get here, and the cost," he said. "You think about getting all this kind of thing and you've still got the lowest cost in the state of Missouri for any four-year college or university." Tiede also said there are a number of rea-

sons helping to bring about this increase in applications. "The uniqueness of the international mission, the recognition of the fact that we are probably the best value for your money in the state are reasons," he said. "Probably the lowest fees and high quality plus a little more aggressive promotion are others." Skaggs said in order to keep applications and enrollment rising, students need to take a more active role in recruiting. "When high school students come to visit our campus, they want to hear, talk to, and see college students," he said. "They want to hear from them as to what their experiences are, so we very definitely would love to get currently enrolled students extremely involved in our recruitment." □

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Samite kicks off African festivities

New World musician set to perform Monday in Webster auditorium

By J.L. GRIFFIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Slightly a hand wistfully strums a litungu, and simultaneously reeds of the African plains are waving and bending in unison with the music. Softly at first and then rising, the

voice is almost a hum. It's enough to make the zebra raise their heads from the reeds and the giraffe cease nibbling on the tops of trees. When you open your eyes the African plain may be gone, but the sound of Samite remains. Samite is the opening act of what is to become the Africa Semester at Missouri Southern. The Ugandan refugee has become one of the most popular artists in New World music. His arrival on campus Monday has been somewhat of a coup for

Southern's Institute of International Studies. "Samite seemed to be the ideal person I was looking for," said Richard Massa, director of the Institute. "He's going to be a major performer in this genre." Massa has received e-mail from colleagues around the country asking how he managed to schedule Samite for a concert at Southern. If you don't know who Samite is, don't

TURN TO SAMITE, PAGE 9

COLLEGE TRAFFIC

Bypass will decrease commute time

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Commuting times for Missouri Southern students from Carthage and Neosho will be reduced by the construction of a Range Line bypass. However, with completion not planned until after 2002, current students may not benefit. Linda Stein, district public affairs manager for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), said right-of-way is now being purchased for the bypass. The limited access highway will connect with Highway 71 at Carterville and travel north-south between Prosperity Road and Duquesne Road to meet up with the new 71 at I-44. Two lanes will be finished by 2002, with no time specified yet for completion of all four lanes. The highway will be limited access with interchanges at Zora Street, Newman Road, Seventh Street, and 20th Street. There will be no intersections or stoplights on the bypass. Stein said traffic generated by Southern was a consideration in placing an interchange at Newman Road. "Students from Neosho, instead of having to drive through traffic on Range Line Road, will have a direct route," she said. "They will be able to get on the bypass and go straight to Newman Road." Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president, said Southern sought the interchange. "We have been saying along when this comes to fruition we wanted an interchange at Newman Road," he said. Tiede anticipates increased traffic on Newman Road not only from incoming north-bound commuters, but from Northpark Mall and Range Line shoppers. He said heavier traffic will provide more exposure for the Southern campus.



Route change

Notable facts about the planned Range Line bypass:

- Completion scheduled for 2002
- Will connect Carterville to I-44
- Limited interchanges at Zora St., 7th St., 20th St., and Newman Road
- No intersections or stoplights
- Southern has pushed for Range Line bypass

"It will be a lot better access from north and south," he said. Shiloh Burchfield, freshman physics major, travels Range Line every day on his commute from Neosho. "You have to stop all the time, and there are some people who drive slow like 25 in a 45," he said. Burchfield was disappointed the bypass would not be completed before his graduation from the College. "It would make it easier to get from one end of town to another," he said. "It would be easier on your car." Stein said much of the bypass will be built in an Environmental Protection Area Superfund site. Construction of the road will clean up the area. "We think it will benefit people in a whole lot of ways," she said. □

IN LIKE A LION



TIM WILSON/The Chart

One day after everyone turned their calendars, the area was hit with a snow shower that caught more than a few students off guard, like Sage Crane, junior undecided major.

CBHE

Regents likely to have final say on College's proposed name change

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

If the College gets its wish and gains university status, the name change may be more complicated than simply changing from "Missouri Southern State College" to "Missouri Southern State University."

"The process of changing the name will require legislation," said College President

Julio Leon. "We have requested the endorsement of the Coordinating Board (for Higher Education), and they are studying it now."

The institution's location and mission are two of the considerations in choosing a name. "One of the issues could be that the name 'Missouri Southern' implies that we do more than we do, that we serve the entire southern portion of the state, which we do

not," he said. "Also, should the word 'international' be a part of the name?" When Southern approached the CBHE about a name change, it set in motion a new study, according to Dr. Kila Stroup, commissioner for higher education. "We're putting together a panel of experts to give us some guidelines for changing the names of institutions in Missouri," she said. "When Northeast Missouri State University

changed to Truman State, we realized that we didn't have an overall view of what was happening across the nation on this issue." Stroup said committee members will put together a paper based on the findings of the panel. The paper will then be sent to higher education institutions in the state. "The decision will most likely be made by our own Board [of Regents] using those guidelines," Leon said.

According to Stroup, the panel reports to the CBHE in April, but there is no deadline for completing the guidelines. "In the life of an institution, this is not a hurry-up process," she said. "It also is not something you do in isolation. It affects other institutions as well as alumni, current students, and future generations of students." Leon said the name change will be part of the process of mission review by the CBHE. □

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Football in February is just as hard-hitting as it is any time of the year, which the Joplin Cyclones found out in the season opener on Saturday...page 14

EMERITUS FACULTY

Southern bids adieu to Frazier

Faculty remember librarian

By NICK PARKER
MANAGING EDITOR

Using one of its founding mothers, Missouri Southern bid adieu to Loretta Frazier Wednesday.

Frazier, 90, died Sunday night at a local nursing home.

Her funeral was held Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church.

Frazier was named one of Southern's six faculty emeriti after her retirement in 1972. She was one of the College's links to the days of Joplin Junior College.

Frazier began her career as a librarian at JJC in 1948 after earning a degree in English and French from Northwest Missouri State University.

She received her library science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"She was one of the faculty members who helped in the transition from a junior college to a four-year college," Southern President Julio Leon said.

"When the College was going to move from downtown to here, she along with some other faculty members went out to other college libraries to get ideas to help design our new library."

Leon, as well as others from Southern who knew Frazier, attended the funeral Wednesday morning.

Mary Lou Dove, Southern librarian, worked with Frazier when she arrived at Missouri Southern in 1969. Dove also remembers Frazier from Joplin Junior College where Dove was a student.

"She was a nice person, a very special person," Dove said.

"She was very interested in the College, the students, and the library. She really wanted to help the students find the information they needed."

"She realized these students would go out into the world and not only represent themselves but also Missouri Southern."

"She truly believed in the importance of education, no matter where you were, and she was in the reference section." □

STUDENT LIFE BEAT

Patrolling the pools

Duties of lifeguard differ from 'Baywatch'

By BRIAN PALMER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Within the past few years David Hasselhoff and company have glamorized the job of lifeguarding through the popular show *Baywatch*.

However, some shows don't always depict real-life situations with the historical accuracy of *The History Channel*. Yet, at the same time, some real lifeguards think the show may not be as inaccurate as others.

"Some of it is actually kind of accurate," said Nikki Chaplin, lifeguard at the Joplin Family YMCA. "I can't relate very much to it because it's on the ocean. But not all lifeguards are beautiful people and have nice tans."

"There's a lot of stuff that I think could possibly be real," said Mac Whitehead, lifeguard at Missouri Southern.

"Most of it's probably just for the TV show and ratings, I guess."

While sitting at poolside may not be the attractive lifestyle the show depicts, the lifeguards are curiously drawn to it anyway, via some tidal pull, perhaps.

"Most of the lifeguards are people who are active people; they enjoy the water," said Cindy Wolfe, aquatics director.

"It's a good summer job. It can be a challenging job sometimes."

Wolfe said lifeguarding at Southern is not as difficult, because there are no children using the pool. Whitehead, senior middle school mathematics and social studies education major, said lifeguards for the Southern pool have been fortunate because the people who come to use the pool already know how to swim.

Michelle Heimerman, senior criminal justice major, lifeguarded at Rosedale pool in Joplin over the summer. Rosedale is a private pool, which means it is the only pool in the area that allows alcoholic beverages.

"On an average day, if it was warm, there would be heads all over the pool," she said. "We didn't have an open spot."

With that many people to watch, lifeguarding can be a formidable task, especially when children are thrown into the mix.

"You have to watch a lot more outdoors, because there's more people there [than in an indoor pool]," Heimerman said.

"You have to watch for kids holding other kids underwater or falling off the diving board."

These times of excitement may be preferable to the alternative, however.

"There's a lot of times where you just sit ... and watch," Whitehead said.

Unfortunately, these are the things that most people associate with lifeguards, along with the whistle.

"It's a lot harder, I think, than what most people think it is," Whitehead said. "I mean, it's not the *hardest* job in the world ..." □

Student LifeBeat



These special features are designed specifically for you - the student. If you have any suggestions please call 625-3311.



DEBORAH SOLOMON/The Chart

Nichole Chaplin, freshman health promotion and wellness major, is a lifeguard at the Joplin Family Y located at 4th and Byers.

SOUTHERN NEWS BRIEFS

Southern Foundation receives late donation

A late anonymous gift to the Missouri Southern Foundation Phonathon has swelled the pledge total to a record \$275,650.44. Foundation director Sue Billingsly reported.

The anonymous gift of \$25,500 was added to the previous total of \$250,150.44, setting a new pledge record for the 16th annual Phonathon that officially ended Feb. 12. The previous pledge record was \$233,550 in 1996.

Although the calling has ended, the total pledged likely will continue to increase since many College alumni and friends are still considering their gifts and pledges.

The funds are used to support a variety of programs, including student and faculty development, scholarships, internships, lecture programs, the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, and more.

Volunteers contacted thousands of alumni and friends of the College during the two-week campaign. Co-chairs for the 1998 Phonathon were Dorothy Greenwood and Glenn Wilson, members of the Foundation's board of directors. □

Financial Aid office planning for summer

The Missouri Southern financial aid office is currently planning summer financial aid. Anyone interested in financial aid for the summer semester may go to the financial aid office in Hearnes Hall.

The office has a book for interested students to sign and list preferred types of financial aid. Office hours for financial aid are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday, including the lunch hour. □

International food feast to land at local church

The Missouri Southern International Club is planning an International Food Feast for this evening.

The International Food Feast provides an opportunity to sample foods from various international spots.

The club fund-raiser is planned from 5 to 7 p.m. at Forest Park Baptist Church, Seventh and Range Line, Joplin.

The event is \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public. Seating at the Food Feast will be limited.

For tickets or more information, people may stop by Webster Hall Room 343 or call 625-3109. □

Fourth annual contest slated for Saturday

The Klassix Society, Red Onion Cafe, Cho-Col-Ate Creations, and S.J.L. Beverage are sponsoring the fifth annual Wine Tasting benefit for 88.7KXMS, Joplin's Fine Arts Station, a service of the communications department at Missouri Southern.

The event will take place Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, 320 E. Fourth St., Joplin.

A variety of wines from the United States, Europe, and Australia can be sampled at this event.

Tickets are \$15 per person. Reservations may be made by calling 417-659-4434. Tickets also will be available at the door.

88.7KXMS provides 24 hours of classical, folk music, and public affairs programming from nationally syndicated programs and from the station's studios on the Southern campus. □

STUDENT SENATE

Finance committee doles dollars to three campus groups

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Wheels continued to turn in the Missouri Southern Student Senate allocation machine Wednesday night due to a \$1,000 donation by the Campus Activities Board.

At the end of session last week, the Senate was left with a mere \$854.14 left in the coffers for allocation this week, but the CAB donation allowed three organizations to be allocated funds.

Natasha Anthony, representing the

International Club, requested \$1,000 to help fund a group trip to Silver Dollar City.

"Part of our mission is to introduce some of our international students to American culture," she said.

The organization was allocated \$500 without debate.

Senior senator Grant Miller spoke next on behalf of the WISE organization.

Seven members of the group will be traveling to Southampton, England, for six weeks to complete their student-teaching requirements. Originally, the allocation for \$1,000 was completely denied on the basis that the

trip was thought to have adequate funding and that it was being taken to fulfill College required hours.

"We don't feel this is a Student Senate obligation but the College's responsibility to see that students can fulfill their requirements," said Jason Talley, Senate parliamentarian.

After the voting was over, however, Miller moved to suspend rules and asked for a \$750 allocation after explaining the extra-curricular aspect of the trip.

Finally, the Southern jazz band asked for help in funding its upcoming trip to London.

Junior senator Nathan Camp spoke on behalf of the group and group member Ray St. Ledger appealed to the Senate as well.

"Right now this trip to London is a landmark," St. Ledger said. "We are taking it very seriously."

The Senate allocated \$500 of the group's \$1,000 request, leaving \$104.14 to be given out at the next meeting, where three new organizations will be presenting requests.

"We've seen the biggest allocations ever come through this semester, and the majority of them are international trips," Talley said. □

FACULTY SABBATICALS

Merriam set to finish list

By NICK PARKER
MANAGING EDITOR

Each year since 1927, *Time* magazine has chosen a person of the year. In 1971, when the magazine selected President Richard M. Nixon, a future Missouri Southern instructor disagreed vehemently.

Dr. Allen Merriam, professor of communications, was a graduate student at Ohio University when

Nixon was selected. The 16-year Southern instructor said he wasn't sure if an upcoming trip to China warranted the "Man of the Year" title. Merriam decided to make his own choice for that year.

Later, Merriam's dissatisfaction with *Time*'s choices for person of the year, combined with his interest in history and world cultures, convinced him to make his own list

TURN TO SABBATICALS, PAGE 9

PARKING

Students appeal campus tickets

By BRIN CAVAN
STAFF WRITER

Fifty-four Missouri Southern students took parking ticket cases to the appeals board for review on Friday, Feb. 27.

Val Carlisle, coordinator of student activities and one of the three board members, believes the appeals process can be helpful. Students may file either a written

appeal, or, better yet, appear in person.

"There is a lot that comes out in a personal interview that you don't get in a written appeal," Carlisle said.

She joined the board at the request of campus security. The faculty representative is Dr. William Tannenbaum, assistant

TURN TO APPEALS, PAGE 9

A BLOODY GOOD TIME



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Brenda Lusk, staff nurse, checks Jeanette McCaughtry's blood pressure during a blood drive March 1 on the third floor of the Billingsly Student Center. McCaughtry is a senior secondary education major.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Small group virus invades Southern

A phenomenon is sweeping across the Missouri Southern campus. I used to believe the condition was confined with the walls of Webster Hall and the communications department, much like when a person who has had contact with a contagious disease is quarantined for observation.

After taking several classes in Matthews Hall (practically a foreign nation to most communications majors), I now have reason to believe the anomaly in question has leaked across campus.

Majoring in communications, I have been exposed to a wide variety of classes in the field. As a result, I had come to the conclusion that instead of graduating with a degree in mass communications, a more accurate

description of my college career would be a degree in small group relationships.

I tend to view the communications department as a "kinder, gentler" environment, one that is meant to comfort and nurture students. When the small group virus was confined to Webster, it was easy to chalk it up to the politically correct atmosphere.

Because it has been detected in the more structured forum of the business community, the problem must be addressed before it infiltrates the entire campus.

When forced into the small group situation, Southern students take on a different personality. It doesn't matter where they usually fit into the classroom dynamics, the small group situation affects everyone.

First and most notably, there is the "No Show" personality. This is the person who, if you're lucky, shows up for the first group meeting and the class presentation. Somehow, though, he (or she, I guess I shouldn't show my biases so obviously) manages to convince the instructor that he (again, or she) single-handedly orchestrated the entire project.

No group would be successful without the "Boss." As soon as the instructor sends the group out on its own, the "Boss" takes charge. In her (there I go again with my biases, or his) own mind, the group would not survive without her leadership.

Then there is the "Laborer" of the group. This personality type tends to latch onto the "Boss" and fulfill her (or his) every demand.

Unfortunately, no group seems to be without the "Antagonist" personality. Every idea and suggestion is pogooped by this personality, although no constructive input is ever brought forward.

There are certainly personalities I have missed in this laundry list, but these are the most obvious. In some circumstances, a group member may manifest symptoms of more than one personality trait. For instance, who among us has not had to deal with the "No Show" who, when graced with his (or her) presence, becomes the "Antagonist?"

With all the different personality types represented in the small group situation, I imagine everyone walks away feeling they have done more than their share for the greater good. And with that comes the belief that the other members did not carry their portion of the load.

I realize this pining student against student is supposed to represent real-world interaction. But in a working situation, how many people will only have contact with their co-workers for 10 minutes a week?

Until the carrier of this small group virus is found and quarantined, none of us is safe from this horrendous experiment with society.

Unless a cure is found, I suggest we all stop drinking the water. ☐



Tammy Spicer
Executive Editor



OUR EDITORIAL

Unsigned editorials on this page express the opinions of a majority of The Chart editors. Observations elsewhere on the page represent independent viewpoints of columnists, cartoonists, and readers.

Zero-based budgeting

The end is near. As apocalyptic as that sounds, it is the truth. With only \$104.14 left in its coffers, Missouri Southern's Student Senate is about to run out of money.

After only seven weeks of classes, and only five weeks of allocating, the Senate's finances are all but dried up.

Starting with a scarce amount to begin obviously didn't help fiscal matters. When there are still several weeks left in the semester and the major function of the Student Senate can no longer be accomplished, there should be bells and whistles going off.

Here are the problems:

■ Many organizations are coming to the Student Senate for international allocations. Trips abroad cost more than domestic jaunts, alas less money for everyone else.

■ Only around \$10,000 is allocated to the Student Senate each semester. That's about 15 percent of the \$20 every student pays in activity fees.

■ Of the student activity fees, Student Senate gets 3 percent more than what's allocated to Spring Fling and

Homecoming Activities. It gets 10 percent less than what's allocated to *Crossroads: The Magazine* and 33 percent less than the Campus Activities Board.

No wonder they run out of money every year.

The solution seems obvious especially after Wednesday night's Senate meeting when the CAB handed over \$1,000 to the Senate to disperse at will, which it promptly was. The formula of disbursement needs to be changed, and the Senate needs to take some of the CAB's money.

The Student Senate is not blameless in all this, though. There needs to be guidelines set up by a committee to decide what gets priority funding.

They need to keep better records of what organizations have received in the past and what was done with those funds. A certain \$1,500 allocation to the cheerleaders springs to mind.

Some very worthy organizations are going to be left empty-handed this semester because our student governing body is operating like some crazed budget director high on mescaline left over from the Reagan era. ☐

YOUR LETTERS

The Chart welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. Submit letters to The Chart office on the third floor of Webster Hall, fax them to (417) 625-9742, or send via e-mail. Our e-mail address: Chart@mail.mssc.edu. Letters are due by noon Monday for publication in that week's edition.

Zeta sister responds to 'rude' comments

I am writing in response to the comments concerning Zeta Tau Alpha sorority in the Feb. 20 issue of *The Chart*. I apologize on behalf of Zeta and my sister who made the ignorant and rude comment to Amanda concerning interracial dating.

However, their comment has no reflection on what Zeta stands for and I hope whoever made the comment realizes this.

I joined Zeta last fall because I could see

the love its members have for one another despite their differences.

Zeta celebrates differences among members who join to promote leadership and friendship on campus and in the community.

As for attending all of the events, I only wish I could attend more.

Like many Zeta, being a full-time student and working makes attending all events

impossible. That is too bad because that is one less memory I will have.

If someone were following up on my college career, I would say joining Zeta is the greatest decision I have made.

Krissy Gooch
Sophomore pre-veterinary med. major

Coach Frazier, it's time for Robert Corn to go

After yet another disappointing MSSC men's basketball season highlighted by a team cloaked in talent and void in chemistry and fundamentals, it is undoubtedly time for Robert Corn to go.

As one of the many loyal Lion supporters, I had the opportunity to attend the majority of their games. Arguably, Southern had more raw talent than any team I encountered this season. But, as commonplace in their past nine seasons, the team was dominated by selfish play and a lack of fundamentals and aggressive leadership. In short, the 1997-1998 men's basketball team looked like a "playground" team that can be readily seen at any Joplin area park.

At the very heart of this dilemma is head coach Robert Corn. His vast recruiting excursions have generally brought in players that have hindered, rather than helped, Southern's program. Instead of utilizing the abundant talent found in the four-state region that is already on the team, Corn has consistently opted to bring in persons more concerned with their scoring averages rather than the final score or the win-

loss column. After the team's final loss at Pittsburg State, Corn stated in the post-game radio show that he intends to do the same this off-season. Corn would probably be wiser to concentrate more on his coaching and leadership abilities than his time in Memphis or anywhere else in order to improve the program.

The 1996-97 season ended with several players showing that they had the abilities to succeed in the MIAA. Yet Corn felt propelled to bring in transfers that would ultimately replace those players, or, at a minimum, move those players to different positions. Again, if Southern did not have the talent that it has possessed for several seasons, this letter would be moot and in vain. But when the team does not play with passion, or loses significant leads consistently, or has players who do not know the meaning of "pass" and "teamwork," the coach can be the only person liable.

Corn's problems do not lie solely in his nine-year record (122-124). If those teams' abilities were highlighted by that record, then so be it. But that is not the case. Corn

can not expect, as he has, to put a bunch of vastly talented players on the court and have a very successful season. A true coach leads, organizes, and would not tolerate selfish play. By Corn's obvious lack of concern of his team's disorganized play, he has encouraged such play.

This letter is not meant to attack the integrity of Corn personally, nor that of any player. In fact, many of Southern's players played hard every night. But if Coach Frazier, as Southern's athletic coordinator, does not remove Corn, then loyal fans of Southern basketball can expect to "enjoy" more of the same disappointing results they've experienced in the past.

Proverbs 13:20 states that "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Basketball is not a life or death struggle, but it would be nice to have a coach that maximizes his team's ability.

Andrew T. Brown
Missouri Southern Alumni, 1997

IN PERSPECTIVE

Beginning to outgrow our past

In the fall of 1968 I was a wide-eyed 26-year-old beginning my tenure as a "college professor" at Missouri Southern College that had a student enrollment of 2,864 students and approximately 60 teaching faculty. Having come to Southern from Webb City High School, I was very excited to begin a new career. I now had an office (shared by two others), a secretary, taught fewer hours, and was paid more. I couldn't believe my good fortune — at last a job that required only 15 hours a week in the classroom and outstanding pay (\$6,700 a year). And then I walked into my first class.

My first few years proved to be very demanding. But with the help of my colleagues — Bob Miller, John Tiede, Jim Gray, Dan Stengel, and a year later, Julio Leon (to name a few) — I made the transition and began to learn what college teaching was all about. What initially appeared to be an unspendable salary turned out to be a \$1-an-hour job. I learned a great deal about the demands of teaching at the college level.

My early years at Southern reminded me of the small town of Rockville, Mo., where I spent my youth. Everybody in this small town knew everybody else, and families spent time together helping each other with whatever needed to be done or simply getting together to visit. I remember those years with fondness.

As with Rockville, I also remember fondly the early years at Missouri Southern College. We were a small, intimate school. All of the faculty knew each other, and we also spent a lot of time together. These times might be spent in the college union over a cup of coffee (which occurred several times a week), at lunch in the cafeteria, or simply in one's office. Friendships developed (even outside one's academic discipline) and many of us spent week-ends together in social settings. There were dinners and — well I can't tell everything that we did — we had a lot of fun.

As the College grew, there were more buildings, more students and, yes, more faculty. We became distanced because of proximity and numbers. We began to outgrow the small town (college) atmosphere.

With growth came growing pains. The College was now Missouri Southern State College and we were experiencing our "teenage" years. There were some rebellious times and cloudy days that are natural during these teen years. Because of the early ties of the faculty and mutual respect, we not only survived these difficult times but became a better institution because of them.

As the College continued to grow, I am reminded of a faculty dinner (provided by the Board of Regents and Trustees) at the beginning of the school year. Dr. Floyd Belk, vice president for academic affairs, was addressing the faculty after dinner and introducing new members of the faculty. The faculty had grown considerably as had the academic qualifications of the new faculty. As Dr. Belk noted this fact, he reminded us that, "In the early years of the College, we hired warm bodies. Today we can be much more selective." (This is a paraphrase.)

Us "old timers" looked at each other and a feeling of "warm and fuzzy" swept over us. We knew, however, that



Larry Goode
Professor of Business

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THE CHART

SPJ — The Nation's Best Non-Daily Collegiate Newspaper (1995-1996)
ACP National Pacemaker (1997)
ACP Pacemaker Finalist (1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997)
MCMA — "Best in State" (1993-94, 1996-97)

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CAR COLLECTOR

Martin chooses marriage over Corvette

Buying dream car postponed in favor of engagement ring

By BRIN CAVAN
STAFF WRITER

Would you trade your spouse for a classic car? Better yet, would you trade the chance to buy a 1958 Corvette for a spouse?

Dr. J. Larry Martin, dean of the school of arts and sciences at Missouri Southern, did just that. He passed up the opportunity to buy a

'58 Vette, and got a wife instead.

"I used the money that I had saved and bought my wife's engagement ring, so I made a good deal, and she's still here," Martin said.

He finally purchased a Corvette, a 1960 model, through a scout in 1987. His wife, Penny, described the day the car arrived.

"The anticipation was like waiting for a new baby," she said.

"When he (the scout) finally arrived, the whole family was waiting with our faces pressed against the glass in the window. It was like Christmas."

"I've always liked cars, and I've

had some good ones," Martin said. "The Corvette was the car I'd always wanted. I like the way it looks and drives."

He has made many changes since buying the car. It was originally white with a red cove. Now, it is black with a silver cove.

"It was a nice mechanical car, but I've had the engine rebuilt and a lot of body work," Martin said.

"It has a lot of new parts and new paint. You keep working at it."

The engine is a Chevy 350-cubic inch V-8 with a mechanical fuel injection. When purchased, the original 283-cubic inch engine had already been replaced with the

Chevy 350, and Martin kept the larger engine.

Parts for the obsolete fuel injection system are ordered out of Indiana.

"They put it (the mechanical fuel injection) in originally for racing purposes — for cornering so the carburetor wouldn't empty," Martin said. "It would tilt to provide equal fuel to all cylinders. Then the engines became so powerful that it became more of a triviality."

The paint job was done in a Tulsa body shop by a Top Flite winner. Even with all the special effort put into the car, Martin insists, "It's a driver. This is not a show car."

The Corvette is only driven locally, and he occasionally brings it to Southern in the summertime.

Martin believes owning classic cars makes good sense.

"Older cars, classic cars, appreciate," he said.

"They don't depreciate. All the other cars do. This car will not ever be worth less than I paid for it. In fact, it will be worth many times more than what I paid for it."

Penny Martin describes his obsession another way.

"It's his pride and joy," she said. "If something happens to him, I'm either going to bury him in it or sell it first thing." □

REBUILDERS

Family shares classic car hobby

Three generations are refurbishing antique automobiles

By KEVIN COLEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The garage door opens to reveal a shining black 1926 Model-T sedan sitting on jackstands, its chrome V-6, overhead cam Chevrolet engine in plain view, a not-yet-finished product of 20 years of its owner's labor.

Roger Jackson is passing an automotive legacy on to his three sons, Randy, Rusty, and Ryan. Like grandfather, like father, like sons; three generations of this Carl Junction family are street rod enthusiasts.

Behind their house at 201 Temple St. sit two garages where members of the Jackson family spend much of their time working on their favorite hobby.

Randy, a management technology major at Missouri Southern, began working on his 1926 Ford coupe in 1989, when he was 15, and completed work on it in 1992, when he was a senior in high school. Rusty, a sophomore business major at Southern, started working on his 1932 Ford pickup when he was 16.

"It took about three years to build," Rusty said. "I'm 19 now, and I'll be turning 20 next month." "When we say three years," Randy said, "that means working on them in the winter and driving them in the summer. We don't work on them eight hours a day."

"We might spend one evening working on them, and the next three evenings we might not touch them. It all depends on our schedules. It's just a hobby."

Rusty's pickup was recently fea-



SPECIAL TO THE CHART

The Jackson family, Carl Junction, transforms jalopies into street rods. Randy Jackson, management technology major, rebuilt a 1926 Ford.

tured in *American Rodder*, February issue; *Street Rodder*, April issue; and the April issue of *Custom Classic Truck*.

Both Randy and Rusty paid for their cars by mowing lawns for their uncle. Youngest brother, Ryan, 13, plans to follow the tradition this summer.

Roger, owner of Durham Diesel Repair, started building street rods 28 years ago. In those 28 years he estimates he has rebuilt 75 to 100 cars for himself and other car enthusiasts.

He and his sons even help his father-in-law, Ernie LeGrande, with working on the boys' grandfather's custom rods. The work is time consuming. Every car he rebuilds is completely disassembled, then rebuilt from the ground up. He has taught his sons to follow his example.

"That's the way I generally do it," Roger said. "From the ground up — just take the whole car apart, every nut, bolt — everything you can possibly take apart."

Randy Jackson said complete disassembly followed by detailed

reconstruction of a vehicle is vitally important to the car's longevity.

The Jacksons belong to the National Street Rod Association. About five years ago their membership in the organization proved its value when Randy's coupe was demolished in an out-of-state collision.

In 1993, Randy and Rusty were driving Randy's coupe through Colorado when they were broadsided in an intersection by a Dodge van running about 60 mph through a stop sign.

A phone call to another NSRA member brought a rebuilt vintage tow-truck to the boys' aid.

"He (the tow-truck driver) even let them store the car in his garage until they could rent a U-Haul to haul it home," Roger said.

Besides the 1926 Model-T, Roger is currently working on a 1926 Ford touring sedan, a 1967 Camaro for a customer, and helping his father-in-law, who recently had cataract surgery, on 1936 Ford two-door sedan. All the Jacksons hope to continue their hot-rodding hobby for years to come. □

RACING

Father, son share thrill of fast lane

By KEVIN COLEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Spring is approaching and that means racing season for the dirt track drivers and fans of Joplin and the surrounding area.

Jimmy Curtis, sales representative for MBF in Joplin, along with his father, Jim Curtis, accounts executive for MBF, is one of the local drivers who is looking forward to taking his car back out to the track.

Jimmy Curtis, a 1995 graduate of Missouri Southern, has been driving modified race cars for the past three years. He caught racing fever from his father.

"I guess I've always been into car racing," Jim Curtis said. "The people I used to spend summers with raced cars over at Hannibal. So we would go to the races two or three times a week, because they raced at Hannibal, Quincy, and Pittsburg, Illinois. So they kind of ruined me, and in turn, I ruined Jimmy."

Jimmy Curtis started with racing go-carts, but decided he would rather get into auto racing. He races at 66 Speedway in Joplin, Northfork Speedway, and at Moonett.

"I've had three wins in three years," Jimmy Curtis said. "One a year, that's pretty good, I guess. I finished in the top 10 out of 25 in Joplin, my first year."

He totaled his first car at Northfork, but that didn't knock Jimmy Curtis out of the fast lane for long.

"He wrecked that car on a Friday night," Jim Curtis said. "Saturday, he had already found another chassis."

Father and son went and picked up the chassis. It would take them about four weeks to put it together. Then they learned there was a car for sale locally.

"Blackcat Body Shop had a car for sale, complete," Jim Curtis said. "At that time, Joplin was paying five points to go out and pack the track. He (Jimmy) went out and asked if he could borrow the car to pack the track."

The car's owner told the Curtises if they wrecked the car they would have to buy it. As it turned out, there was no need to worry about a wreck that weekend; the races were rained out.

"The next week he (the owner) said 'Why don't you go out there and hot rod it?'" Jim Curtis said. "We asked, 'Well, what about you wreck it; you buy it?'"

The owner told the Curtises if they wrecked the car they would be responsible for fixing it. They could live with that because they knew if they were using their own car, they would be responsible for repairing it.

From there Jimmy Curtis started using the car regularly. Eventually, that led to being sponsored with another car. Blackcat Body Shop is sponsoring Jimmy Curtis this year with another new car and his old number, 22X.

He said what he gets from racing is indescribable in words.

"It's a rush like you've never experienced before," Jimmy Curtis said.

"You have downfalls with it, things go bad, and it gets tough. But when you're winning and the car is running good, and you're able to pass and able to run, then there's no other thrill like it." □

Nuts & Bolts

Keep hobby in control

Having a car for basic transportation is one thing, but having cars as a hobby can give a man or a woman hours and even years of recreation.

Every day, as I travel to and from college, I see interesting cars. Some aren't in as good condition as others, but most of them have good potential, provided the owner has a little bit of imagination.

Cars can be jacked up, lowered, hopped up, or decorated with lights, chrome, magnesium wheels, and wide tires.

People who work on their cars as a hobby can find hundreds of ways to distinguish their cars from everyone else's. They can give their cars a personality only dreamed of by the factory workers on the assembly line.

Auto enthusiasts can take the roughest and ugliest pieces of junk and transform them into works of art, molded sculptures worthy of being on display in the finest museums.

It takes time, patience, and sometimes a lot of money to get them that way, but most auto hobbyists get a great deal of satisfaction from their cars and feel that the time and money are well worth the end result.

Car shows draw millions of people each year to ogle, drool, and socialize, indoors and out, amidst prime examples of automotive art works.

Whether it is to restore an antique automobile to look like it just rolled off the assembly line, soup up the engine and drive train in an old muscle car, or just to install a killer stereo in your basic transportation vehicle, there is someone out there ready to sacrifice time and money to make his or her car something special.

The only time, I think, some of these people get carried away is when they take a car and customize it so elaborately that they will no longer take it out and drive it. Sure, it may be a beautiful machine, but where is the fun in keeping it shut up in a garage or towing it around on a trailer?

If you're a person who goes to car shows, you've probably seen some examples of the types of cars I'm talking about—absolutely gorgeous vehicles that haven't even been cranked over since they were put together for fear of discolored the chrome due to the heat or exhaust in the engine.

I have a hard time believing these people can be getting the full extent of enjoyment their cars have to offer.

I, and I know I'm not alone in this thinking, would have to take it out and see how it handled, feel the rush of exhilaration that only comes from being in control of a high-performance vehicle, and see the looks on the faces of other drivers as I passed them on the highway.

Some might disagree with me, but I believe a person has wasted his effort when he customizes a car to the extent that it becomes nothing more than an expensive garage decoration. Other than that, I think cars can be one of the most fulfilling hobbies a person can participate in. □



Kevin Coleman
Associate Editor

MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST

Lecture—
Tuesday, April 21, 1998 - 12:20 p.m.
Webster Hall Room 210

Test—
Tuesday, April 28, 1998 - 12:20 p.m.
Webster Hall Room 210



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CAMPUS
CALENDAR

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Students experience world government

Model U.N. returns from winter jaunt

By ERIC GRUBER
STAFF WRITER

Last week, seven members of the Model United Nations Club were able to participate in a little role-playing away from home.

Missouri Southern's Model U.N. Club joined approximately 50 colleges and universities at the Midwest Model United Nations conference in St. Louis on Feb. 25-28.

"The Model U.N. is a simulation of the proceedings of the real United Nations," said Dr. Paul Teverow, professor of history. "There are dozens of them — hun-

dreds that take place across the country."

Teverow said the Midwest Model U.N. is one of the bigger ones with 50 schools playing the roles of different United Nations countries. At the conference, four committees meet separately and discuss different issues.

These include the committees for disarmament and security, economics and finance, social and humanitarian, and special political issues.

"We represented the country of Sweden in all of those," Teverow said.

He said the only exception was the committee for the Historical Security Council, which was a simulation of the proceedings of the United Nations during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait during 1990-91. Southern student Alan Brady repre-

sented the country of Finland for that proceeding.

Southern student Nick Prewett, currently serving an internship with the U.S. State Department at the United Nations in New York, attended the conference in St. Louis.

While there, he won an award for outstanding Security Council delegate.

"I'm interested in the international aspect of the world," said Sara Smith, a junior sociology major.

Smith said she has been to four United Nations conferences overall, two in St. Louis and two in Chicago.

Smith was on the Economic and Social Council, which debated issues such as the development of women and international drug trafficking in mostly Third World countries.

She also noted that instead of having solutions already written out, the committees had to "write them ourselves."

Another student participant in the conference was Ivy Hagedorn, freshman international studies major.

"It was a lot of fun," she said. "We got to meet a lot of new people."

Hagedorn has attended two conferences and likes the new experience.

She said another reason the Model U.N. is interesting is because it is a "possible career field" that she may explore.

"It seemed to fit in real well with my major," she said. "It seemed like a good thing to try."

Persons interested in more information about the club may call Teverow at 625-3114. □

“
The Model U.N. is a simulation of the proceedings of the real United Nations.
”

Dr. Paul Teverow
Professor of History

DEPARTMENT OF KINESIOLOGY



TIM WILSON/The Chert

Senior Kinesiology major James Bolin wraps a foot as part of his experience in the athletic training department at Missouri Southern.

Sports medicine treats, heals, teaches

By BETH HAMILTON
STAFF WRITER

Nestled deep in the heart of Young Gymnasium, a living laboratory thrives amidst the athletic department.

This laboratory consists of injured athletes, books and equipment, and athletic trainers.

In the training room, students actively pursue an internship in athletic training by treating and rehabilitating injured athletes. Interns also train at games.

"We do a lot of first aid when these students are hurt," said Marty Conklin, head athletic trainer. "If any athletes are injured or need physical therapy, we do it right here."

Student trainers are members of a fairly new club, the Sports Medicine Organization.

Established three years ago, the organization meets monthly.

Conklin leads the meetings or guest speakers lecture. Once a semester the organization aligns with an area hospital.

"We also host, in conjunction with Freeman Hospital, an athletic training seminar for area high school and college students who want to learn more about athletic training," Conklin said.

Though the Sports Medicine Organization goes hand in hand with the athletic training internship, club membership is not necessary to become a trainer.

"I really love being around athletes and dealing with a profession in the medical field," said Stephanie Hilburn, junior nursing major.

"It will give me another option. If I don't want to do direct nursing, I could do athletic training."

Conklin said after the internship, students may certify as an athletic trainer by taking the National Athletic Trainers Certification Exam.

"There are about 11 or so certified athletic trainers right here in Joplin, and most of them are Southern graduates," he said.

Kevin Crammer, sophomore health promotion and wellness major, is pursuing certification.

"I want to work at a sports medicine clinic

and then go out to high schools," he said.

"[This] puts me in a position where I can be in athletics all my life now. I feel like we're a major part of how the team performs."

Conklin said he enjoys being a part of the Missouri Southern program.

"The athletic department, coaches, and athletes are very supportive," he said. "It makes our job enjoyable. They seem to appreciate what we do. It makes a good environment."

Crammer said players are appreciative of the assistance and care he gives them and have even introduced him to their family and friends.

"It's very stressful at times, but it's so rewarding," Crammer said. "It's the best thing to help college athletes perform their best."

Conklin enjoys teaching and working with athletes and trainers.

"They are truly quality kids," he said. "I'm just amazed every day at how much initiative and responsibility they're able to assume. I take a lot of pride in what they're doing." □

ADMINISTRATION

Staff seeks own senate

College workers desire equal representation

By JEFF BILLINGTON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Whether there is as much representation for the Missouri Southern staff as there is for the faculty is a question under discussion on campus.

Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president, believes there is equal representation for staff and faculty but in different ways.

"Most of those people (staff) deal pretty closely with their supervisors, so usually you get feedback through the supervisors," Tiede said.

Some Southern staff members wish they had more in the way of representation on campus.

"Student Senate meets weekly, Faculty Senate meets monthly, Staff Senate is nonexistent," said Darlene Beeler, scheduler for the Billingsly Student Center.

Beeler said a Southern staff council existed in the past.

"I know there used to be a staff council," she said. "But now it's totally inactive."

Beeler said many of the staff-related questions must be directed to someone in the personnel office.

Tiede said a senate or council for the staff is not necessary due to the close way staff members work with their supervisors.

"There is a lot closer supervision involved with staff than there is for faculty," he said. "They've got managers they can visit with, and then they can go through the director of the physical plant and through my office. So there's quite a few channels of communication."

Tiede said outside of these channels of communication, the staff also has a handbook to help them with any questions.

"We have a staff handbook," he said. "As far as committees, we don't have much other than there's a committee we use when we work on the handbook."

Beeler said in the past she has tried to get a copy of the staff handbook but was unable to obtain one.

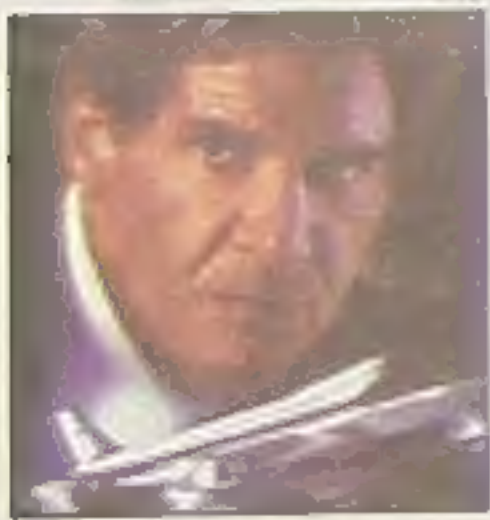
"I was told they were currently updating it," she said. "That's been six years ago."

Beeler said a staff committee or senate would help add moral support to Southern staff members.

"There's no committee that will rally around and gather support," she said. □

CAMPUS CALENDAR

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Jeff Billington at 625-9311.



■ Wednesday night at the Student Life Center, Air Force One with Harrison Ford will show at 7 p.m.

Today 6	Saturday 7	Sunday 8	Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 13
6 p.m.— International Club Food Feast, Forest Park Baptist Church, \$5 for students, \$8 for others 8 p.m.— Carmina Burana, Missouri Southern Concert Chorus and the State Ballet of Missouri	7:30 p.m.— Community Concert, Harlem Spiritual Ensemble, Taylor center for the performing arts.	Student Life Center hours; 10 a.m.-12 a.m. •Entry deadline for The Celebrate the Pond Contest is April 1	Intramurals Co-ed Softball League and 4/4 Volleyball League signups through the 30th 7 p.m.— Baptist Student Union Quest Fellowship, Baptist Student Union Building 7:30 p.m.— Samite of Uganda-singer, songwriter, Nautist, Webster Auditorium	9 a.m.— Morning Mass, BSC, room 306 12:20 p.m.— Marketing Club, Matthews Hall, room 103. Guest speaker Camille Marshall	Noon— CAB meeting, BSC, room 310 6 p.m.— Aerotek pre-interview meeting, BSC room 306 9 p.m.— Wesley Foundation Midweek Worship	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.— Koinonia Lunch, basement of Stegge Hall 12:15 p.m.— Pre-Law, Justice Center, room 141 12:20 p.m.— Model UN, Webster Hall, Room 223 •NBS, MSTV Studio 6:30 p.m.— Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, BSC, 2nd floor lounge

Regional pianists compete for honors

Area musicians to share spotlight
In international piano competition

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In a few weeks, world-class musicians from all over the globe will converge on campus for the seventh Missouri Southern International Piano Competition.


Prior to the international event, several regional pianists will be vying for an opportunity to share the spotlight.

Area pianists, age 18 and under, are being invited to compete in the honors audition, a parallel competition added in 1992. Contestants are required to perform one solo piano composition on March 21.

Audition judges will be Dr. Henry Jones, assistant professor of music; Robert Harris, retired music faculty member; and Vivian Leon, director of the MSIPC.

The honors audition was added to expand the benefits of the competition, Leon said.

"For the international competition, the level of play is so high it excludes most of our local students," she said. "Most of the international contestants already attend conservatories, and very few of our students have had those opportunities."



Countdown to competition

March 6 —
Honors Auditions

March 13 —
PBS Documentary

April 10 —
Host Families

April 17 —
A Closer Look
Missouri Southern
International Mission

The honors audition also serves as a recruiting tool, she said.

Five winners will be selected from the audition, and each one will receive a certificate and a medal. They also receive a \$200 savings bond and scholarships to attend Missouri Southern. Most importantly, perhaps, they perform in a master class for the international judges.

"Many competitions include a master class where top students are given a public piano lesson from the prestigious judges who are normally unavailable to these students," said Gloria Jardon, audition chairperson. "Not only do the performers learn valuable lessons, but the audience picks up many good pointers for their own playing."

The master class will be held before the formal rounds of the international competition. Each of the competition judges works with one of the winners while the other four write critiques.

The audition winners and their families are invited to attend all the activities of the international competition, including the welcoming party at the beginning and the gala concert and reception at the conclusion.

"The networking is a hidden but valuable prize for the young musicians," Jardon said.

In 1996, audition winners were Brent Benscoter, Springfield, Mo.; Erin Burger, Carl Junction, Mo.; Joanne Chen, Overland Park, Kan.; O'dell Garrett, Waynesville, Mo.; and Kevin Lai, Tulsa, Okla. □



SPECIAL TO THE CHART
Kevin Lai, one of the honors audition winners from 1996, receives instruction from one of the judges, Carlo Pagano.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Ray St. Ledger, senior music education major, will perform pieces from his repertoire at his senior trumpet recital, March 12.

Recital caps off music education

By JALYN HIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

As his senior recital draws near, Ray St. Ledger, senior music education major, just keeps on practicing, and practicing, and practicing.

A senior recital is required to complete a bachelor of music education degree with a trumpet major, said Robert Meeks, assistant professor of music. St. Ledger's recital will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12 in Webster Hall auditorium.

Although the amount of practice time varies each week, St. Ledger keeps himself busy doing homework and going to class when he isn't practicing.

"I get up at 6 a.m. and go to school at about 7," St. Ledger said. "I have a 20-minute warm-up to start my day."

"I do any homework I didn't get done the night before, and then I go to class at either 8 or 9. I practice at 10 and have lunch with my wife at 12. After the rest of my classes, I do homework and practice until I finally get to go home and pass out around 6 or 7 p.m."

St. Ledger is a member of SMSTA (Student Missouri State Teacher Association), CMENC (Collegiate

Missouri Educators National Conference), and the Wesley Foundation. He also works for the music department as a concert sound technician. Despite his schedule, St. Ledger still found time to get married to Lisa, his wife of only eight months.

For his recital, St. Ledger has prepared approximately 50 minutes worth of music from composers such as Haydn and Herbert L. Clark.

"I have been preparing since my freshman year," he said. "That's what this whole thing is about, to show your repertoire."

Music education usually takes more than four years to complete. This is especially true for St. Ledger, who is in his eighth year. He attended two years at Ozark Christian College before transferring to Missouri Southern.

His private lessons for the past seven and one-half years have been with Meeks.

"The day before the recital, my job is over," Meeks said.

St. Ledger believes his senior recital is a chance to use the education he received from private lessons.

"It will let me get experience performing in front of an audience. As music majors we are all performers."

“That's what this whole thing is about, to show your repertoire.”

Ray St. Ledger,
Senior music
education major

Next fall St. Ledger will be doing his student teaching. With his wife still in college here, he hopes to find a job close for a year or two.

"I've always known I wanted to do something with music," St. Ledger said. "I love kids, and they seemed to go hand in hand."

He believes he has been prepared well for student teaching.

"We have a wonderful staff in the education department and the music department," he said.

"The teachers here have taught in the public school system. They know what's going on." □

COMMENTARY

Hottest video rentals provide tepid entertainment at best

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (Warner Brothers) — In what is arguably Keanu Reeves' worst performance to date (aside from every Dogstar show), *The Devil's Advocate* almost appears to be a blueprint for how not to make a movie.

For starters, if recycling a tired theme (in this case, the devil wants to breed his anti-Christ offspring, a.k.a. *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Omen*), try to give it a new spin. *Advocate* attempts to do this by casting Satan (played by Al Pacino) as the head of a New York law firm (go figure), but it comes off stale. Every viewer in the free world knows Pacino's character is hellish in nature, thus negating a majority of the mystery in this mystery flick.

Secondly, when dealing with

unimaginative dialogue and second-rate acting (except for Pacino), why make the film more than two hours? This film clocks in at 144 minutes. It would seem Reeves' acting lessons went overbudget, cutting into the editing funds.

Finally, never cast such a second-rate actor over a film legend. Pacino's performance is the only facet of the film worthy of praise.

It is hoped this will be the last time Pacino's



Aaron Deslatte
Associate Editor

In Review

name comes second in the credits to someone like Reeves. **RATED R**

MAD CITY (Warner Brothers) — The speed in which this film went from theaters to video speaks volumes as to the validity of the picture.

John Travolta plays a disgruntled ex-museum guard who attempts to regain his former job by taking hostages inside the museum. Dustin Hoffman plays an opportunistic television reporter caught in the mayhem who tries to use Travolta's character to advance his own career (only broadcast journalists would stoop so low).

Shoddy dialogue and plot hinder the performances of the two Hollywood standouts. Hoffman has been in a tailspin since *Outbreak*, and it is hoped he wasn't expecting this picture to provide any sort of rebound. **RATED PG-13**

EVENT HORIZON (Paramount) — If

you've seen *Sphere*, there's really no point in renting *Event Horizon*, or vice versa.

Plotwise, they are almost the same movie. A lost ship from earth somehow goes to hell and back, returning with some alien force on board. Yawn. The time differences in the two films does little to negate the horror of seeing such similar plots in films with release dates so close. (Bear in mind when debating who ripped off whom that *Sphere* was a book written by Michael Crichton over a decade ago.)

Laurence Fishburne stars as the rescue ship's captain, while Sam Neill plays the designer of the fateful vessel, *Event Horizon*. Filled with cheap scares and above average special effects, this flick is perfect for viewers in search of brain-dead, sci-fi fanaticism. Serious movie buffs should veer clear of *Horizon*. **RATED R** □



COMING ATTRACTIONS

On Campus

TAYLOR AUDITORIUM
March 6—Carmina Burana ballet, 8 p.m.
March 18-21—Madrigal Dinner, 7 p.m.
April 18-19—Beauty and the Beast

MATTHEWS AUDITORIUM
Foreign Films
March 17—The Promoter
March 31—The Forty-First
April 14—The Torment

WEBSTER AUDITORIUM
March 9—Samite of Uganda concert, 7:30 p.m.
March 12—Senior trumpet recital, Ray St. Ledger, 7:30 p.m.
March 17—Southern Trio, 7:30 p.m.

Joplin

THE BYPASS
624-9095
March 7—Studabaker John and The Hawks
March 13—Duke Robillard Band
March 14—Live Comedy Show

CORDELL-WILSON BOOK-SELLERS
March 12—"Cover" Slam, 7:30 p.m.

CHAMPS
782-4944
March 6—Chump Change
March 7—Cool Shorts
March 13-14—Vic Vaughan
March 14—St. Pat's Parade; opening of beer garden
March 16—Hadden Sayers

MEMORIAL HALL
March 28—Toby Keith and Kevin Sharp

Kansas City

STATION CASINO
March 20—Charlie Daniels Band

KEMPER ARENA
April 2—Eric Clapton

Tulsa

MABEE CENTER
March 10—Merle Haggard

Springfield

SHRINE AUDITORIUM
April 24—Audio Adrenaline, Supertones, and Jennifer Knapp, 7:30 p.m.



Samite will perform rhythms of modern Africa at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Webster Hall Auditorium.

ARTS SHOWCASE

THE CHART SOUTHERN FACES

Friday, March 6, 1998

Distractions cause 'train of thought' to derail



Judy Havins, secretary at the Center for Assessment and Institutional Research, said she admires intelligent people. Her heroes include Warner Van Braun and Albert Einstein. Her husband, Bill, is a neuropsychologist.

BY BRANDON LAWSON
CHART REPORTER

Trying to keep a clear head while working for Missouri Southern is a daily challenge for Judy Havins.

Havins, the new secretary for the Center of Assessment and Institutional Research, began working at Southern in November and is still finding her way around the campus.

"The hardest part is keeping my train of thought," she said. "There are many distractions."

Havins has to answer the phone constantly while keeping busy with other secretarial work. She says anyone who needs to know a statistic about Southern can call her office. She has little contact with students due to her location on the third floor of Mathews Hall. One of her jobs as a secretary involves the organizing and supervising of the freshmen and senior assessment testing. Another tedious part of the job is answering surveys that come into the College from outside agencies.

"That stack doesn't get any smaller," Havins explains. "You take two or three out as two or three more come in."

Despite these many distractions, Havins loves her job.

"It's a nice place to work, people are real friendly, and I've enjoyed getting to know the campus," said Havins. Havins grew up on a farm in a town called Plainview

between Amarillo and Lubbock in the Texas panhandle. She went to college for two and a half years at Sul Ross State University.

One of the people she looks up to most is her mother, who set quite an example for her and her family. Havins says her mother has been an educator and a traveler.

Havins admires intelligent people. Her heroes are Albert Einstein and Warner Van Braun. This is perhaps why she married her husband, Bill, a neuropsychologist who specializes in brain injuries and rehabilitation.

Judy and her husband have a history of working in hospitals. They started out in New Mexico, then moved to West Virginia and worked in two hospitals for three years. They then moved to Mount Vernon, Mo., where she worked as an administrative assistant at the hospital there for four years.

Havins has four children (two sons and two daughters) who have left home, graduated from college, and live in the western United States. She also has six grandsons.

One of Havins' favorite activities while not working is gardening.

"I like to dig in the dirt," she says while laughing. Havins grew up on the farm, and gardening has always interested her.

For Havins, "life is what you make of it. Bad things happen to everybody and good things happen to all of us, too." □

PHYSICAL PLANT



Dan Mahan, lead carpenter, enjoys working with wood both as his job and as his hobby. He has 20 years experience in carpentry, and still finds some jobs difficult.

JASON FOSTER
The Chart

Mahan changing look of College

BY BRIAN WIRTH
CHART REPORTER

If you have noticed some changes in the looks of Missouri Southern, they were probably brought about by Dan Mahan, the lead carpenter at the College.

"We pretty much do everything and do lots of remodeling," he said.

Mahan, with 20 years experience in carpentry, has worked with many contractors around Joplin and in the Kansas City area.

Even though he has all this experi-

ence, he still finds many of the specialty jobs difficult.

"It is hard to do some things if you haven't had that much training in that area," he said.

Mahan was born in Phoenix, Ariz., and raised in New Mexico. He moved to Kansas City, where he attended the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He, his wife, and his youngest child now live in Webb City. Mahan's two oldest children still live in New Mexico.

In his spare time he enjoys fishing

and, believe it or not, woodworking.

"I enjoy making wooden toys, such as airplanes, guns, cars, and many other things," he said.

One of Mahan's long-term goals is to become a pastor in a church in the Joplin area. His short-term goal is just to get caught up with work at the College.

"We are a little behind now and we hope to get caught up soon," he said.

"My advice to the current students here at MSSC is to keep the Lord in the center of your life, and everything will fall into place." □

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Position provides opportunities

Smith combines teaching, nursing

BY SCOTT MEEKER
CHART REPORTER

Taking the position of coordinator of health care services at Missouri Southern provided Debbie Smith with a unique opportunity.

"It has given me the chance to combine both my education and nursing degrees," she said.

After graduating from Southern with her B.A. and B.S.E., Smith spent 10 years working in the Joplin Catholic schools where she taught art, kindergarten, and first and fifth grades.

Her desire to help others and her interest in the health-care system brought her back to school to pursue a degree in nursing. A registered nurse, she has already received her A.D.N. and will complete her B.S.N. in May.

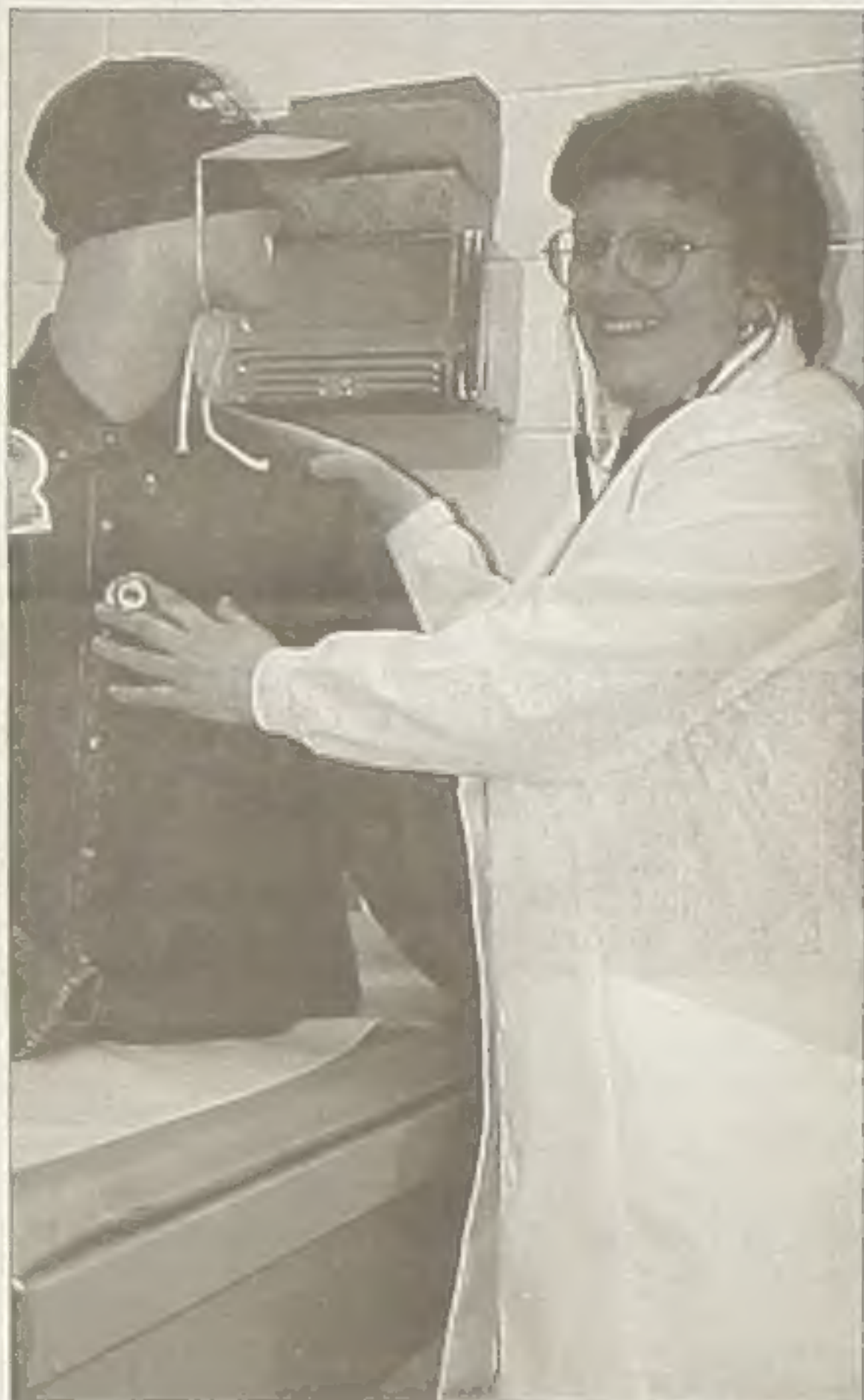
"I chose nursing because I like being of service to other people," she said. "And I find the challenges of health care to be very exciting."

The mother of five children, ages 14 to 24, Smith enjoys walking and loves to draw and paint in her spare time.

"Art is definitely a hobby," she said. "But for a long time it was also income."

Since January, Smith has been in charge of running the College's general medical clinic, where she sees both students and faculty. She also works closely with the wellness program, student services, and the residence halls, and is involved with any health-related education issues that might arise.

One of the highlights of the job is that it allows her to work



JASON FOSTER/The Chart

Debbie Smith, coordinator of health care services, gives a demonstration of proper health care techniques to a friend.

closely with others.

"I like getting to meet the students and faculty," she said. "The College is growing, and I think that the health services should grow along with it."

Smith says she would like to see the health program expand. She believes preventive medical visits are important. There are a number of new counseling and immunization programs she would like to see implemented at Southern.

"I'd like to see a much wider

range of health-care services available to everyone here," she said. "The College is growing, and I think that the health services should grow along with it."

To those students who are considering entering the health-care field, Smith has this advice: "They should find a health-related position so that they can see firsthand what is required of them. This is a very challenging and rewarding field, but it is also very demanding." □

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Winter plans to linger as long as possible

BY NATALIE WEEKS
CHART REPORTER

The admissions office feels like home to Kristy Winter.

Winter, a native of Jasper, Mo., graduated from Missouri Southern in July 1997 with a bachelor's degree in general business.

She began working as admissions secretary two months earlier.

"I attended Southern because it's a small campus, it's conve-

nient, and both of my parents are Southern alumni," Winter said.

She enjoys her job so much because she likes to work with people from diverse backgrounds.

Since she's been in a student position, it gives her an idea what students are looking for and what they want.

"There's really nothing to not like about my job," Winter said.

Her advice for anyone interested in this type of job is to acquire strong communication and computer skills.

Before her job in the admissions office, Winter spent some time during school working in the Work Study and continuing education programs.

This allowed her to become familiar with the way the College operates.

As admissions secretary, Winter helps incoming students with the admissions process.

She sets up appointments and helps schedule tours for prospective students. She works with non-traditional, transfer, and first-year students.

Starting college can be a frightening experience for some students, and her advice is that college is not as bad as it seems.

"People should never be afraid to ask questions," she said. "There's a lot of people that have been through exactly what you are going through."

Winter plans to stay in the Joplin area for as long as she can.

She has traveled to Canada and Mexico with her family. She also enjoys many outdoor activities. □



JASON FOSTER/The Chart

Kristy Winter, admissions secretary, admonishes new students to ask questions in order to glean the knowledge of those who went before.

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INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER

Email in various tongues

BY MICHAEL RASKA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Many countries far from the United States are hard to reach. However, in Missouri Southern's International Language Resource Center (ILRC), one may reach them all with a touch of the fingertips.

The ILRC has been improved with computers and software that read and encode different languages.

"We are in the process of implementing all the changes," said Tatiana Karmanova, ILRC director. "We have received four new computers just two weeks ago. They have been installed and connected to the Internet, which we did not have before."

The computers' software encodes the fonts of different languages, such as Russian, she said.

"This would be difficult to do in other places on the campus because one would have to know how to install or how to download fonts to be able to read the foreign Web pages,"

Karmanova said. "Here, the system is modified so the text can be encoded easily."

The computers also allow working on the Web with resources in the original language, which provide much more detailed information. This helps to break the language barriers and encourage students to learn a foreign language, she said.

One of the many possibilities of the fonts is to send e-mail in different languages.

"If you want to send an e-mail in another language, our computers have fonts that allow students to type in those languages," Karmanova said. "One can certainly use an attachment to send a message in a foreign language. There may be, however, some technical difficulties on the recipient side. For example, there are so many ways for encoding a Russian text."

The ILRC does not have Japanese and Chinese fonts for IBM yet, but should have them in the future, she said.

"This would help students a lot," said Iwona Drozdek, a business major from Poland. "It would be an excellent learning tool, and also it would be an incentive motivation for American students to write in foreign language."

"Think of pen-pals or friends living in different countries. I would be astonished if an American wrote me in Polish."

Many students realize the importance of learning a foreign language with the help of today's technology.

"It breaks down the barriers of communication," said Natasha Anthony, senior speech communication major. "You can learn so much from other people, because they have different perspectives of life. Just by hearing them, what they have to say, what they think, how they think, and their values can enrich your life. This new opportunity of using e-mail would be wonderful."

For additional information about the new possibilities, interested students may visit the ILRC on the third floor of Webster Hall or call 625-3109.

GOODE: Reflections of the old days, when \$6,700 was a lot

From Page 4

swept over us. We knew, however, that he was right. Our new faculty was very qualified and the maturation process was evident.

As I attended my 30th faculty dinner at the beginning of the current school year, I was taken back by the sheer number of new faculty at Southern and even more taken back by the excellent credentials that these new people possess.

Southern, because of its reputation for being an excellent teaching institution, can attract the best faculty (as well as the best students).

Today, most of my colleagues have earned doctorates. Because of this, and the fact that many of the students now think that all faculty are educationally equal, I am referred to, more

times than not, as Dr. Goode. If the time and circumstances permit, I correct them and tell the student that I possess only a master's degree so they can refer to me as Master Goode.

This does tend to confuse a few and amuse the others.

I have witnessed many "firsts" at Southern. I was privileged to witness Southern's first graduating class as a senior college.

This graduating class consisted of 198 baccalaureate degrees and 111 associate degrees. I have also been a witness to the many, many changes that have occurred in 30 short years.

One wish I have is that those who come to the College today don't forget about those of us who got the College "off of dead center" and on

the track we find ourselves today. For those of you who don't have the time nor the inclination to do research on "early Missouri Southern," may I recommend a publication by Dr. G.K. Renner titled, *In Pursuit of Excellence — Missouri Southern State College — 1937-1992*.

Before I pass the torch to the younger generation of faculty, I do have another goal to pursue. I understand that the College is due to become a university.

Since I have never taught at a university, I feel that I must do something special in order to be an effective member of the faculty of Missouri Southern State University.

Perhaps I'll change my name from Goode to Best! Who know — before I retire I might just be Master Larry Best.

SAMITE: New World musician to perform Monday

From Page 1

feel bad. It wasn't long ago that even Massa didn't know who he was.

"One of the most important things of this whole Africa symposium has been the Web," he said. "I had done a lot of research on the Web; on Africa, on talent. In terms of music, I kept coming across the same names. Samite kept coming up over and over again."

Pronounced "saw-muh-tay," the performer was born in Uganda and was influenced by musicians who played in the king's courtyard when he was going to school. He plays a number of

native instruments as well as singing his songs in two Ugandan languages.

"I am convinced that we are all moved by the same desires, needs, and emotions regardless of the language in which those feelings are expressed," Samite said in a press release.

It has been said Samite performances have set people dancing in the aisles. His soft rhythmic beats and gentle caressing melodies can cause people to leap to their feet.

Monday's performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the Webster Hall auditorium.

"Just show up," Massa said of admission. "It will be a cultural event." □

SABBATICALS: Two faculty members taking break

From Page 3

for person of the year. His list includes a choice for every year in the current millennium.

Merriam has been approved for a sabbatical from his teaching duties next semester to compile and refine his list as well as look for publishers interested in his book.

"Time selected Nixon because he announced he was going to China during the next year," Merriam said. "I chose for that year Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh. I'm trying to emphasize a historical significance from a global perspective instead of a narrow-minded Americanistic point of view."

Merriam and Time match person

and year only 11 times since 1927 when the magazine began giving the honor. Both chose Charles Lindbergh as 1927's person of the year.

Many have been asking Dr. William Kumbier, associate professor of English, where he will be going for his sabbatical during the spring 1999 semester. To the surprise of the questioners, Kumbier is not traveling but taking the time to concentrate on his writings.

"My sabbatical is not really exciting from the outside," he said. "I asked for the sabbatical to give me time to write. I've already got several chapters of a book written; I will write more during that time. Then, the summer after the sabbatical, I will try to put the book together."

Kumbier said his writings will focus on the interactions between music and literature. Some of his writing will also expand into the use of music in film. The nine-year Southern instructor has written several articles in the past dealing with the subject, but only recently has begun to compile the ideas.

"It's really about how music is used to represent things," he said. "Basically it is about the relationship between music and language, and music and literature."

Kumbier said the music portions of the book will focus mostly on the works of Joseph Haydn, specifically Haydn's *Creation*. He said one of the interesting aspects of his work is the originality of the issue. □

APPEALS: Fifty-four students contest parking tickets

From Page 3

professor of history, Jason Kiefer, sophomore secondary education major and student senator, represents the student body.

Terry Hylton, security officer, was present to answer any questions the board had about various violations. Of the 14 appeals filed for January and February, the

board voided 13 and dropped half the fee of four appeals. Thirty-seven students still had to pay fines as originally ticketed.

Students chose to appeal their parking tickets for many different reasons. Some pleaded ignorance of specific rules, while others cited frustration.


"It was an honest mistake," said a junior elementary education

major. "This was my first semester back."

All the students appeared to continually have trouble finding adequate parking.


Even the appeals board could relate to the student's complaints.

"What she says has a lot of merit," Tannenbaum said. "She makes some valid points." □



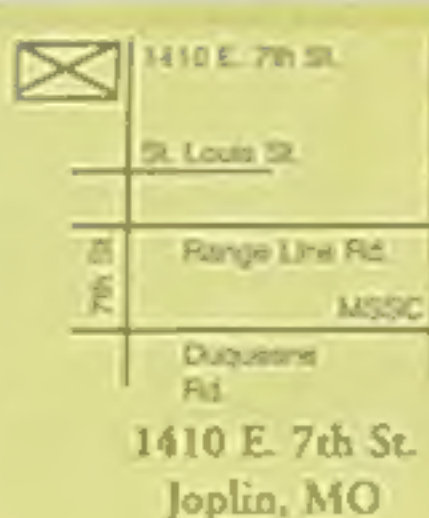
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Diabetes group to host insulin therapy program

St. John's Regional Medical Center will host a Diabetes Support Group meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria at St. John's Rehabilitation Center, south of the medical center. The Juvenile Diabetes Support Group of St. John's will also gather at this meeting.

The program, "What's New in Insulin Pump Therapy," will be presented by a Mini-Med representative.

The support group is free of charge.

Persons with diabetes, along with family members and friends, are welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, persons may contact Mary Lou McGee at 659-6488 or toll-free at 888-LIV-RIGHT. □

Freeman's Health System offers new heart treatment

Freeman Health System is one of the first hospitals in the region to offer a promising new treatment for coronary artery disease.

On Feb. 26, in Freeman's bi-plane catheterization laboratory, Dr. John Cox, Freeman cardiologist, used the transradial approach to perform a balloon angioplasty through the radial artery in the wrist rather than through the femoral artery in the leg.

Cox achieved a stent placement during the procedure as well.

The transradial approach was also used last week to perform diagnostic procedures on another patient at Freeman.

Both procedures were successful, and the patients are currently recovering.

Performing the procedures through the wrist lowers the risk of complications, decreases a patient's discomfort, and reduces the patient's recovery time.

In some cases, the patient may even be discharged from the hospital on the day of the procedure.

For many years, cardiologists have used the femoral artery to insert interventional devices to treat the blocked arteries of the heart.

The miniaturization of medical devices now allows the use of smaller vessels like the radial artery. □

Support club helps victims of abuse, offers therapy

Older adolescents and adults who are recent sexual assault victims or who are still troubled by problems from previous assaults are welcome to attend Lafayette House's Sexual Assault Survivors group.

These meetings deal with intrafamilial, acquaintance, and stranger assaults.

There is an eight-week cycle of discussion topics that relate to trauma, recovery, and general issues of sexual assault.

Discussions are individualized to meet the needs of participants.

Group activities are a combination of learning, processing feelings, and affirmations of survival.

This is an open-ended group, so new members can begin any time after they have been screened and accepted for SAS group.

Participants may want to complete all of the topics and then stop coming.

They may also continue to use SAS as a recovery support system.

SAS is appropriate as an adjunct to individual therapy, or as an after care treatment following individual therapy.

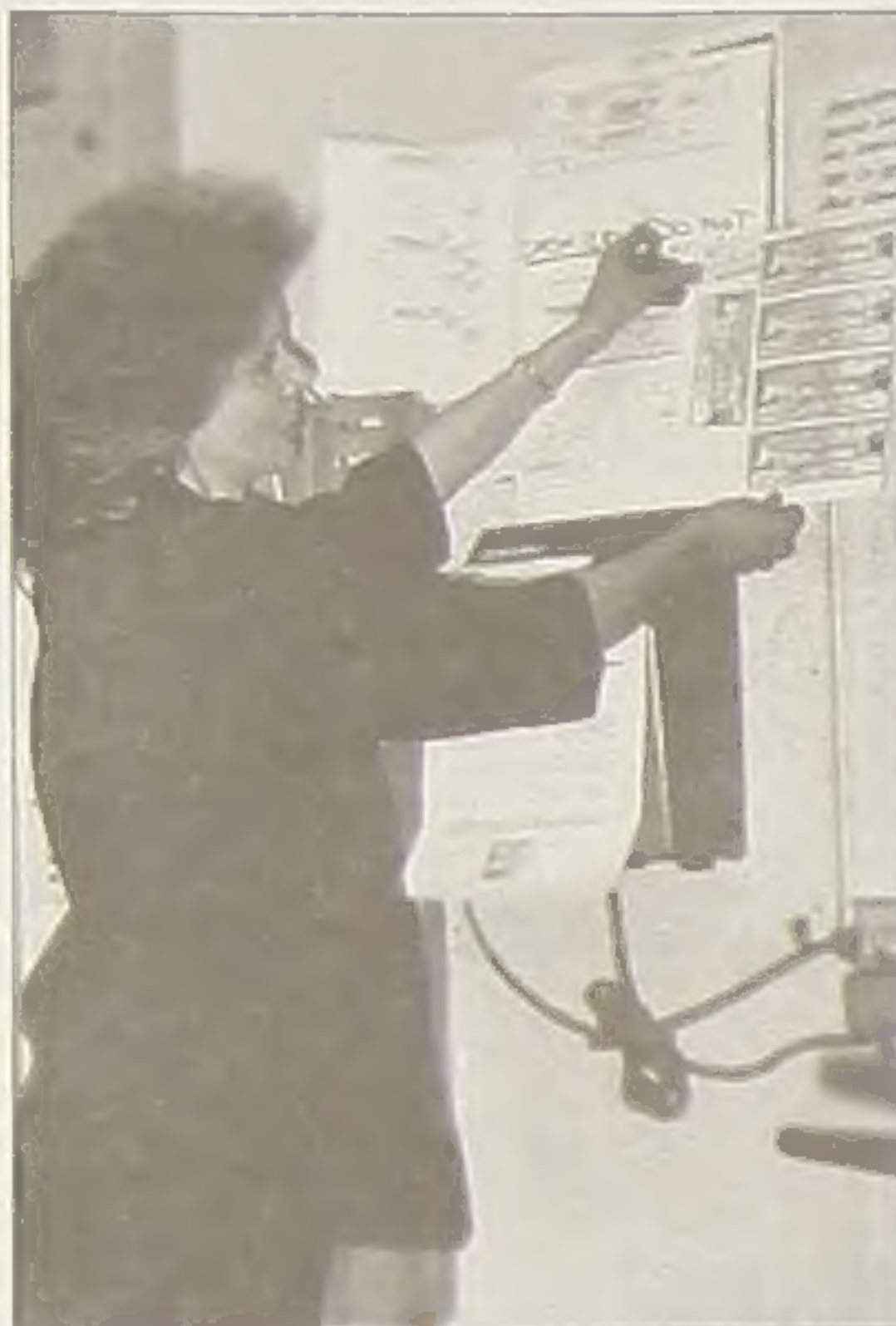
The group meets at 5 p.m. on Thursdays in the CHOICES Building at 1809 Comor.

Persons wanting to participate may contact the Lafayette House to set an appointment for the initial screening for the SAS group.

Fees are based on a sliding scale related to family income. □

JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Investigations ensue for counterfeiter



Michele Jones, cashier at Smitty's Supermarket, places a photocopy of the phony Travelers Checks on a side wall.

By KIKI COFFMAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

In February at least four Joplin businesses were hit with forged American Express Travelers Checks. The Joplin Police Department (JPD) investigations team looking into the matter is coming up with no new leads.

"We have had four [forged travelers checks] so far that I know of," said Sgt. Jeffrey Trotnic. "Two of [the counterfeit checks] were to J.C. Penney's, one was to the Factory Card Outlet, and one was to Hastings; fairly close to one another," Trotnic said.

All of the counterfeit Travelers Checks discovered so far were passed on Feb. 4. The first report came in on Feb. 17.

The JPD doesn't have many clues to operate on, but it does have a sketchy description of the person officers are looking for, according to Trotnic.

"[Business owners] gave us the general profile detailing, mainly, that it was a white male dressed in business-like attire," Trotnic said.

Trotnic believes the apprehension of the criminal responsible may rely on community and outside efforts since the case isn't making any headway.

"A lot of times what happens in these cases is the criminals come in off the Interstate, go around the town, and then jump back up on the Interstate and go from town to town," Trotnic said. "We have not yet been notified by any other agencies that are looking at the same type of crime, but I'd like to find the guy who did it."

"One thing that we will do is send the documents out to be checked out for prints and then if the guy who handled them has ever been fingerprinted and the prints have been put into AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) we can get kickback that way, also," Trotnic said.

The easy access to modern, high-grade copying equipment

makes the detection of phony checks and bills difficult.

"They are probably printing them all on a high-grade quality printer, copiers are so good any more you can get a pretty accurate picture of the item," Trotnic said. "I looked at the Travelers Checks myself, and they are not that bad of quality."

Trotnic says counterfeiting hasn't increased, though he noted there was another rash of forgeries using counterfeit \$100 bills in Joplin around the same time.

"We probably take our fair share of counterfeits, but it's not a really high number," Trotnic said. "If I had to guess how many counterfeit items we take in, probably 20 to 30 counterfeit bills in the course of a year."

While the counterfeiting crimes' results are not catastrophic, they do pose an ominous threat to the businesses that discover passed counterfeit money in their tills.

"Counterfeiting creates a direct loss. There is no way of restitution," said Steve Earnhart, Hastings store manager, one of the stores hit by the counterfeiter(s).

"We got one of the forged checks back from the bank, and it was really hard to tell that it was a counterfeit. It was a good copy," he said.

Trotnic said many stores' policies on making customers happy may deter cashiers from questioning the validity of a check.

"A lot of the stores are at a disadvantage almost immediately because they are so customer-friendly, so they just take in the Travelers Check, give the customer the money, and give the customer their merchandise and the criminal goes on down the road," Trotnic explained.

The counterfeit checks have several characteristics that are identical. The series number in the top right hand corner is typed in, and are all the series number RD304-229-878. The writing on the bottom of the Travelers Check is blurry and the ink smears. □

AREA ENTERTAINMENT



Jeff Day and Jonathan Cook participate in a game of pool at The Powerhouse, located in Carthage.

HEATHER OWENS
The Chart

Center provides fellowship, coffee

By HEATHER OWENS
STAFF WRITER

A center that offers 10,000 square feet of activity to students has a desire to see this generation of young people come to know Jesus Christ.

The Powerhouse, located at 430 W. Elk in Carthage, is a place where students can enjoy several activities such as wallyball, ping-pong, foosball, pool, or just shooting some hoops.

Common Grounds, its new coffeehouse, provides an atmosphere where students can enjoy a cappuccino or Latte or eat lunch.

Among these many choices, the focus remains to present the gospel of Jesus.

This Christian teen center is a non-profit ministry of BYKOTA Church and is run completely by volunteers, said Rhonda Shepherd, director of the Powerhouse.

"The purpose of the Powerhouse is to give young people a place to go where they can have a really good time but stay out of trouble," Shepherd said.

Regular nights are always free, but a cover charge may be in order when there is a concert, she said.

Katie Madsen, a high school junior, said she enjoys helping out at the Powerhouse.

"It gives me a chance to give up part of my weekend to hang out with kids and develop relationships with them so

they know this is a place where they can come," she said. "There are so many people here from different places with different backgrounds, and the Powerhouse is always looking for volunteers," she said.

Yelena Krasnova, a ninth-grade exchange student from Russia, said there is nothing like the Powerhouse in her home country.

"My friends are here, and I can just listen and learn about God and friendships," she said.

John Petticrew, junior high director, encourages students from every background and denomination to come and experience what the Powerhouse has to offer.

"A lot of kids have found that churches have a bad name because they think people will talk down to them, but that's not how we want to portray it; it's not anything like that," he said.

Because it is a ministry, a service is held and everyone participates, Petticrew explained.

"We shut everything down, that's all we ask," he said. "We put everyone in the auditorium and then we call for prayer."

Petticrew explained that the Powerhouse is unlike any other ministry.

"From my own experience, a lot of places like that are boring and cheesy. God's not like that; he accepts everyone. It doesn't matter if you have blue hair, earrings, and tattoos." □

NEW BUSINESS

Outlet to open, offer low prices

By MARLA HINKLE
STAFF WRITER

Many residents of Joplin would love an alternative place to shop for name brands at lower prices. Consumers of the area soon may have this wish.

A new outlet mall is expected to open in August southwest of the I-44 and Range Line intersection.

"We hope to get started pretty soon," said landowner Richard Joseph.

"The only thing holding us up now is some new zoning laws."

Although future stores are yet unknown, the mall will contain 200,000 square feet, Joseph said.

Residents currently have a variety of shopping centers besides the Northpark Mall, but he believes Joplin could benefit from an outlet mall.

"The outlet mall would be better able to offer consumers lower prices because of our rent on the building," Joseph said.

"In contrast to the mall, which charges something like \$30 per square inch per month, we would only charge \$10. The outlet mall would also be a big draw for the four-state area."

Public reaction about the outlet mall is decidedly mixed. Clarence Thelen, a Bella Vista, Ark., native, said he and his wife travel many places to shop, including Joplin.

"I think it would be a great benefit to residents and visitors of Joplin alike because of lower prices," he said.

Some people fear the new outlet mall would be a detriment to the Northpark Mall.

"It's not a good idea," said Kay Smith, a former employee of the mall.

"The mall business is not exactly booming right now, and if people aren't shopping at the mall in Joplin, why would they go to an outlet?"

Camelot music employee Deborah Callaghan is not enthusiastic about the outlet mall location in relation to business and profitability.

"I don't think the location of the outlet mall will be beneficial for other businesses on Range Line, but maybe if it were at a location where it would not drain business away from other shopping centers it would be better," she said.

Whatever the reaction from the public, Joseph fully expects the mall to be a success.

"I think that the new outlet mall will be a smashing success for the economy of Joplin and its residents," he said. □

WEBB CITY

Drive-in awaits uncertain fate due to retail expansion

Residents may bid adieu to 40-year-old area icon

By J.L. GRIFFIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Webb City Drive-In will likely close forever to make way for a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Webb City's planning and zoning commission as well as the city council have agreed to allow Wal-Mart to build on the 18-acre tract. The council vote came Monday night.

"We need to finalize the building plans

and issue a permit," said John Rogers, Webb City administrator.

The drive-in, located on Madison Street between 12th and 14th streets, is owned by Dickinson Theatres, a Kansas City-based chain. According to information obtained from Dickinson's Internet site, the Webb City Drive-In was the last outdoor venue remaining in the chain. The location had been up for sale for several years.

A deal between Wal-Mart and Dickinson apparently has not been completed yet.

"I don't know that all the ink has been put in place yet," said Gary Downs, a Dickinson spokesperson.

Repeated calls to the Wal-Mart real estate

division office were not returned.

The current Webb City Wal-Mart takes up only a minute amount of space compared to the planned Supercenter.

"First understand the location at Webb City currently is 43,000 square feet," Rogers said. "This is going to quadruple it."

The city administrator estimates the Supercenter will increase sales tax revenues by 20 percent, or about \$130,000.

"It has a substantial impact on a community of this size in terms of sales tax," he said.

Also, Rogers said the opportunity for further development of the land will be included with the Supercenter's arrival.

Two one-acre "out lots" will be developed

for other retail businesses, he said.

The enormous plot was once the only outlet for families or groups to gather to watch movies under the stars for several miles.

It had operated at the location since the 1950s.

Another drive-in on the outskirts of Carthage is expected to open this spring.

"People will miss it," Rogers said, "but not overly."

"They're glad of Wal-Mart's new development."

The new Wal-Mart is expected to cost \$2.7 million in preparation. Rogers said he believed construction of the new building could start as early as June. □

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Medicaid expansion bill gains approval

Recipient classification draws House Republican fire; Democrats predict passage

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — A Medicaid expansion bill approved Monday in the Senate likely will receive similar support when the House takes up the legislation.

The Democratic-sponsored bill, which would expand Medicaid health coverage to children in low- and middle-income families, received bipartisan passage in the Senate after five Republican senators voted in favor of the legislation.

Senate opposition to the bill was primarily focused on how the legislation defined which families would be eligible for Medicaid benefits.

The current bill would make families earning up to 300 percent above the national poverty average eligible for child health-care benefits. That would allow a family of four, earning up to \$48,150 a year, to qualify for Medicaid.

Rep. Chuck Surface (R-Joplin) says resistance to the bill in the House will most likely take a similar stance.

"[300 percent] is way over what we should be doing," Surface said. "That's not what most people consider to be very poor. Families making \$40,000 are not low income."

According to Surface, the debate over the bill in the House will not be over whether to provide health care for children, but the manner in which to do so.

"It will be opposing philosophies," he said.

"The philosophy of our area is not womb to the tomb. What we've tried to offer is tax credits for those people to let them buy what coverage they need. [The current bill] is one step closer to

"When my daughter gets sick, we have no health coverage to help. We have to take her to the emergency room."

Teri Mahurin
Senior nursing major

[President Bill] Clinton's universal health care."

Sen. Marvin Singleton (R-Seneca), one of 10 Republicans to vote against the legislation, had proposed a health-care bill that called for increased availability of health insurance for low-income families. The bill died on the Senate floor.

Singleton, a practicing physician, says his opposition to the bill centered on the danger of expanding government.

"I have serious concerns about the expansion of Medicaid," he said.

"Expansion of Medicaid is the expansion of government."

Singleton also warned that if signed into law, the legislation would "cost more than people know."

But for Teri Mahurin, senior nursing major at Missouri Southern, the implications of the bill hit close to home. Mahurin, whose daughter would qualify for Medicaid health benefits under the current legislation, says the lives of thousands of Missouri children are being held in the balance between political self-interests and Missourians' needs.

"When my daughter gets sick, we have no health coverage to help."

"We have to take her to the emergency room," she said.

"If you have that service, you can see medical practitioners who can diagnose things that emergency room doctors might miss."

"I think [the current bill] is just fantastic. It would really get our kids healthy." □



Surface

STATE ELECTIONS

Former mayor files for Senate

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Former Joplin mayor Ron Richard threw his hat into the state political ring on Tuesday, officially filing for the District 32 State Senate seat currently held by Sen. Marvin Singleton (R-Seneca).

Singleton, elected to the seat in a special 1990 election, filed last week for his final term in the office in accordance with state term limit mandates.

Richard, who served as Joplin mayor from 1994 until resigning in November 1997, said his decision to run for State Senate was based primarily on an increasing need for business-oriented legislators to represent southwest Missouri.

"Many state officials have never been involved in business. Many have never been involved in creating jobs," he said.

Richard, whose family owns and operates several bowling alleys in Joplin, says his business experience in the private sector as well as in public office will benefit the area.

"My main goal is to improve existing business and increase wages in southwest Missouri," Richard said.

"I'm a businessman. I feel that business grows and prospers when left alone."

Richard said another benefit in his candidacy stems from his decision to accept campaign contributions from private business and individuals only.

"I'm not taking any political action committee money," he said.

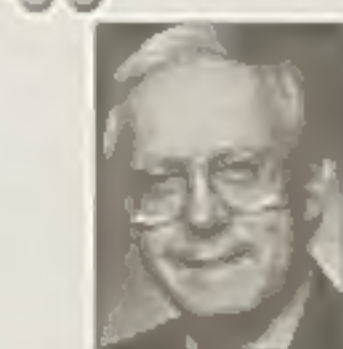
"I don't need to be involved in that."

Richard served on the Joplin City Council from 1990-92 and as mayor pro-tem from 1992-94.

Singleton, a practicing physician in Joplin, is the assistant minority floor leader in the Senate. He says the seniority and experience in passing legislation accumulated since taking the position makes him the best candidate for the job.

"Having a leadership role in the Senate and the proven ability to pass legislation which affects my district are benefits to my candidacy," Singleton said.

State primary elections are scheduled for Aug. 4. □



"Having a leadership role in the Senate and the proven ability to pass legislation which affects my district are benefits to my candidacy."

Sen. Marvin
Singleton
(R-Seneca)

PLUGGING THE VEIN



AARON DESLATTE/The Chart

The west bridge which accommodates traffic heading into Jefferson City over the Missouri River was closed Tuesday in order to complete renovations to the structure. The east bridge was altered to accommodate two-way traffic while the bridge is undergoing the renovations. Motorists were advised to minimize use of the bridge to prevent congestion.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Closed-meeting bill passes committee

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Legislation that, among other stipulations, would require settlements relating to public governmental bodies or their agents to be made public will likely begin discussion on the House floor Monday.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Philip Smith (D-Louisiana), would also mandate several changes relating to governmental meetings and records, and arrest records.

Rep. Mark Elliott (R-Carl Junction) had sponsored a similar bill that would require governmental bodies to make public any legal settlements involving public revenue.

Elliott said Smith allowed the consolidation of the two bills due to their similarity.

Elliott's legislation was in response to

an Oct. 29, 1997, employee settlement made between the Carl Junction City Council and police dispatcher Jackie Rogers. The dispute involved an incident in which then-acting Police Chief Tommy Kitch reportedly bit Rogers' toe.

The settlement allegedly included a \$20,000 payment to the former dispatcher and the resignations of both Mayor Jim Dick and Councilman Jerry Dean, according to a story in *The Carl Junction Courier*. The settlement was made during a closed council meeting, and both sides' attorneys agreed to keep terms confidential.

Elliott said many Carl Junction residents were outraged by the incident, prompting him to take legislative action.

"Closed sessions are not designed to hide city council activities," he said. "If the city is using taxpayers' dollars, they should have to open up the records to anybody. If someone up here [in

Jefferson City] did that, the press corps would scream bloody murder."

Missouri law currently calls for public boards to reveal only the terms of settlements involving legal actions. Smith's bill would call for the law to encompass employee complaints.

"This is a taxpayer expenditure," Elliott said. "I'm paying for this, too."

The bill would also prohibit public governmental bodies from taking votes in private sessions. The bill would also make incident and arrest reports available to the public within 24 hours of the incident unless the report is the subject of an ongoing investigation.

Opponents of the legislation said the bill would hinder some police investigations by providing arrest records to the public. The bill also calls for the conversion of records to an electronic format that opponents said would be costly and not possible to do in all cases. □

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Senior citizen tax cuts approved by Senate

The Missouri State Senate passed and sent to the House on Tuesday a bill carrying \$22 million in tax cuts for senior citizens, marking action on the first tax reduction bill to clear either chamber of the General Assembly this year.

Tax cuts provided in the legislation would affect more than an estimated 100,000 households in the state.

About 71,000 citizens currently receive benefits under Missouri's circuit breaker law, which was enacted several years ago to offset property tax burdens for older or disabled taxpayers.

The bill approved by members of the upper chamber would extend tax cuts to an additional 21,000 households by lowering the qualifying age limit from 65 to 60.

In addition, the bill increases the maximum annual income limit from \$15,000 to \$20,000 and an additional \$2,500 is allowed for spouses and dependents.

This change would extend benefits to an additional 96,000 households.

The bill also contains provisions to increase benefits for many older or disabled citizens who already qualify for the circuit breaker by increasing the income limit at which maximum credits can be received from \$5,900 to \$10,500.

Added to the bill was an amendment that requires the Department of Revenue to notify citizens who are eligible for circuit breaker benefits but not applying for them. □

Blunt calls for crackdown on Internet bootlegging

Missouri's 7th District Rep. Roy Blunt is leading an effort in Congress to stop the unlawful sale of beer, wine and hard liquor over the Internet.

"First there was cyberporn, then cybergambling and now cyberbootlegging," Blunt said.

Blunt is a co-sponsor of House Resolution 1063 that gives state licensed beverage enforcement authorities access to the federal courts to stop illegal shipments into their states. The bill does not create new federal enforcement authority.

It simply puts teeth into existing federal law that requires licensed beverages shipped in interstate commerce to comply with state laws.

"This will put a stop to the cyberbootlegging business which is overwhelmingly opposed by most Americans," Blunt said. □

Senate passes MoDOT accountability measure

The Missouri State Senate has approved legislation that would establish greater accountability and oversight of the Missouri Department of Transportation and projects for which it is responsible.

The measure was drafted by an interim committee because of problems completing highway projects as promised and within budget.

Lawmakers are seeking greater accountability before considering new funding for highway and transportation projects.

As part of the new legislation, the Highway Commission will appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a chief executive officer to oversee the financial side of the department.

The chief engineer will remain in charge of the construction of other operations. Candidates for the position of chief executive officer would not have to be an engineer to qualify for the position. □

Sports SCOPE

Impressions of a new coach

I've had but two encounters with the new football coach at Missouri Southern. I find him an oddly charming man with a keen sense of what to say and what not to say.

The first time I met him was at lunch in the cafeteria. He and defensive coordinator Kenny Evans sat down at the table across from my managing editor and me. As my underling kept babbling on about how the quality of the food in the cafeteria had surpassed his expectations, I tried eavesdropping on the conversation at the table across from us.



J.L. Griffin

Editor-in-Chief

The moment they started bragging about the ACT scores of their recruits, I knew they were on to me. There's hot sports news. I can run right back to the office and put that right there on page one: "Football recruits score high on ACTs." That wasn't going to happen. However, it did get me to thinking, though. Here was a guy who knew he could spoon feed me any propaganda about the football team he wanted and he chose academics. He was about to sign a starting Webb City player in a relatively prominent position, and he was talking about tests. There was something noble about that.

So that was odd.

Then there was our second encounter, a phone interview a few days ago when I peeked out the window in my office and watched a regiment of football players practicing in the lion days of March. Symbolic?

Upon discovering the group on the field, I called Gregory to chat about his first few months on campus. Standard interview questions and standard interview answers were asked and responded to.

The thing that has puzzled me since Gregory arrived was why a guy with a military background was chosen. Was this some attempt to inject some discipline into a group that has had some pretty notorious foibles?

So I asked him, and he laughed. And then I asked him if having no returning offensive backs scared him, and he said yes. It's his biggest fear going into spring drills, apparently. Mine is having to eat at the cafeteria again.

He's going to have to spend an enormous amount of time finding the next Albert Bland or Harold Nofalisse. So much time, in fact, it may harm other areas. We've got a quarterback returning for his senior year who holds some pretty amazing numbers. Without a solid back to pitch occasionally, the beloved option offense is not going to work as well as it has in past years, but Gregory insists otherwise.

"We're an option football team, more than we've ever been," he said after admitting his team's offensive back shortcomings.

So that was odd. I have no idea when my next encounter with Gregory will be, but I can tell you I'm looking forward to it. I like a little oddity in my life. I live for those strange moments when people surprise me with their apparent heartfelt beliefs of what constitutes meaning. □

BASEBALL



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Brandon Eggleston, Lion first baseman, tags a runner at first during Wednesday's game at Joe Becker Stadium against Bemidji State after a throw from starting pitcher Dana Morris. The Lions allowed no runs in either game taking them 18-0 in the first game and 16-0 in the second. The Lions can be seen at home this weekend playing in the Joplin Classic.

Lions take two from Bemidji State

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

March madness has found a home in Joplin at Joe Becker Stadium, where the baseball Lions will host four tournaments this month.

"We're coming around and doing better," said coach Warren Turner. "That is really what our goal is around tournament time."

Fans wishing to grab a game and a Muttburger this afternoon can see Missouri Southern face Dakota Wesleyan and Bemidji State in the Joplin Classic.

Snow canceled Monday's Southern-Dakota Wesleyan game.

On Wednesday, the Lions defeated

Bemidji twice in a double-header.

Southern won the first game 18-0. Lion bats exploded for 20 hits off Bemidji pitchers Kevin Kuklis and Courtney Skjerven. Kuklis was credited the loss after giving up nine runs in three innings. Wednesday was his first start in two years.

For Southern, senior Dana Morris received the win, giving up only three hits in six innings.

"I pitched better this game than I had in previous games," Morris said. "I tried to get control of my pitches and tried to get the first ball a strike and keep ahead of them."

In the second game it was more of the same. Southern won 16-1 with senior Ralph Iovinelli picking up the victory. Derrick

Walters hit a home run in the effort.

"We're happy anytime you win and play an easy ball game, because we don't have that many," Turner said.

Bemidji and Dakota Wesleyan have not played as many games as Southern. Turner credits the Lions' experience against NCAA Division I teams as the difference.

"They're going to be good," he said about Bemidji and Dakota Wesleyan, "but they haven't been able to play outside. We're fortunate we've been able to play a few more games than they have. In baseball if you've played more games you have an advantage."

Turner said hope is growing for players to return to the injury-maligned pitching staff. "Dana and Iovinelli have been pitching all

the games," he said. "We've got to get these other guys healthy and bring them around. Our training room has been busy."

Sophomore Matt Endicott, who has suffered from a sore arm, pitched a hit-less inning in relief of Morris on Wednesday.

"They are getting better and getting stronger," Turner said. "Kevin Escala has been starting to throw to hitters, and he is another one who is doing better."

The Lions opened their home schedule Sunday by splitting a double-header with No. 3-ranked Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Southern will open the Larry Hickey Classic with match-ups against MIAA foe Truman State Saturday and Sunday. □

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Lions fall short at MIAA meet

By JOE ECKHOFF
STAFF WRITER

Though the Lion indoor track team finished a less-than-hoped-for sixth in the conference, some individuals had record-breaking performances.

"We did everything we could, but we just ran out of bullets at the end," said coach Tom Rutledge.

With only three events left, the Lions were in fourth place.

"Our goal was to finish in the top four, but in the last three events they caught up with us," Rutledge said.

Tyson Sims broke the Missouri Southern school record in the high jump at 6-8 1/4.

The athleticism of several runners new to college competition was noted by Rutledge.

"I really admire and appreciate the efforts of our young men this season," he said.

Another athlete who had a big day was Jake Wells.

"He had one of his best days ever; he scored in four events," Rutledge said.

Also having good days were Jon Wilks, Dusty Franks, Jay Cox, and Jack Halsey.

"Everybody did their job. Eric Shaw helped Jay Cox score points in the 800-meter run," Rutledge said.

Rutledge thinks this squad worked hard to reach its goals.

"I have 25 great guys who competed hard and did everything they could to try and score points," he said.

Things went better for the women's team at the conference meet as the Lady Lions placed a school-high third place in the MIAA.

"We knew to place this high we would have to score every point we were supposed to and some we weren't supposed to score in, and we did," said coach Patty Vavra.

In the relay event the Lady Lions suffered some bad luck.

"Sonia Eudy was tripped and then trampled, and the ambulance came and got her," Vavra said. "She came back and competed and really showed a lot of character."

During the meet the women had several provisional qualifying marks. One was by Eudy, who was the conference champion in the 5,000-meter run. Amanda Harrison in the mile (fourth), Heather Hoyle in the 55-meter run (third), DaLana Lofland in the 400-meter run (fourth), and Tina Keller in the hurdles (second) also had qualifying marks.

Vavra says teamwork really paid off for the Lady Lions.

"They are a great group of young ladies who support each other," she said. □

SOFTBALL

Lady Lions gear for opening day

Season begins with Pittsburg State Invitational

By JOE ECKHOFF
STAFF WRITER

After months of practice, the Lady Lions will finally begin their season this weekend at the Pittsburg State Invitational.

Missouri Southern will see a variety of different teams in the two-day tournament.

"There are a bunch of ranked teams at the tournament," said Pat Lipira, who enters her 17th season as head softball coach with a 535-226 record.

Teams not only from the MIAA, but also ranked NCAA Division II teams, ranked Division III teams, and NAIA-ranked teams will challenge the Lady Lions at PSU.

"We have Nebraska-Omaha, who was

second in the nation, and Central Missouri, who won conference last year," Lipira said.

Other teams from the conference who will be in the tournament are Emporia State University, PSU, and Washburn University.

This weekend's competition should show the Lady Lions where they stand.

"We will play the top Division II and Division III schools along with the NAIA schools," Lipira said. "The field of teams are awesome and are some of the best in the country."

Lipira said offensively the team looked good in a Feb. 20 scrimmage against Crowder College. Defensively, she said, players have adjusted well to different positions.

"Jennifer Kennemer has adjusted well to first base, and we are tough up the middle," Lipira said.

It appears Southern will be without starting catcher Joanne Kremer, who is out with an infection.

"We are concerned health-wise because she is one of our leaders," Lipira said.

"We hope that the freshmen will respond well, and I believe that they will."

This weekend will also be a good chance for the Lady Lions to see how tough the conference is going to be.

"We're looking forward to it," Lipira said. "Washburn is real good, and we expect Emporia will be strong."

Central won conference last year, but it doesn't matter much until conference starts.

One member of the club has been around for four years and has seen a difference in this team compared to previous years.

"Our overall attitude is great this year more than any other year," said Kim Wilson, a senior outfielder from Utah.

If something bad happens, we shake it off and pick each other up."

This year's team seems solid at all the key positions, Wilson said.

"We are really solid up the middle and we have a lot of pitching depth," she said. "We can also hit the long ball." □

TIM WILSON
The Chart

“ You have to set your goals high or you will never aspire to anything. ”

Protecting the middle

Lady Lion infielders provide leadership

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Turning one double play a week is a goal set by Missouri Southern shortstop Pam Brewer and second baseman Jennifer Jimerson for this season, according to Brewer.

"The middle infield is very strong," said Pat Lipira, women's softball coach. "Jennifer Jimerson is probably one of the best second basemen in the conference. Pam Brewer is close to that as shortstop, so up the middle we are real strong."

This will be the duo's third and final season starting together.

With uncertainty at first and third and youth in pitching and catching, they provide a core for the Lady Lions' defensive effort.

Jimerson, a senior, has a career fielding percentage of .947.

Brewer, a junior, has a career percentage of .884, including .905 last year.

"Coach thinks it's great for a middle infielder to field .900 or better," Brewer said.

The teammates have developed a

“ We're similar
in a lot of ways.
It is nice having
someone next to
you that plays
like you. ”

Pam Brewer
Lady Lions'
shortstop

sixth sense while playing together. "I know what I have to take care of, and I don't have to worry about her," Jimerson said.

"We don't have any problems communicating on the field. We have a sense as to what each other is going to do. That comes from constant practice together," she said.

This communication is key on relaying, cutoffs from the out-



Senior second baseman Jennifer Jimerson slides into second base as junior shortstop Pam Brewer waits for the ball. Jimerson and Brewer will provide guidance and depth in an otherwise inexperienced infield. Both women finished last season with fielding percentages better than .900.

field, and double plays.

"We're similar in a lot of ways," Brewer said. "It is nice having someone next to you that plays like you."

She said they practice individual drills together in order to help build up their teamwork skills to their fullest.

Jimerson is also an offensive leader for the team.

Last season Jimerson led or tied the Lady Lions team high in five different offensive of defensive categories.

Jimerson has earned first team All-MIAA honors three times since joining the Lady Lions program in 1995.

Lipira complimented Jimerson's intensity.

"Jennifer Jimerson is a leader in that she does so by setting an example," Lipira said.

"Jennifer goes out every practice 100 percent. She is a great role model and goes after every ball like it is going to cost us the national title," she said.

Jimerson, a physical education

major with a coaching minor, plans to apply for a fifth-year enhancement scholarship.

She hopes to return to Southern for a psychology minor.

Although she will use up her eligibility this year, she hopes to help out the team next year as an assistant.

Jimerson plans to pursue a career in sports psychology or coaching.

She would like to further her education by attending a graduate school where she can coach while

furthering her studies.

However, finding a university offering sports psychology and a softball team has proved difficult.

"You have to set your goals higher or you will never aspire to anything," she said.

Brewer, a nursing major, will return next year.

She plans to help the new second baseman, most likely a freshman, adjust to collegiate play.

"It will be hard next year getting used to someone else," Brewer said. □



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Football in February



Joplin's play-caller prepares to take the snap during the winning drive in the closing moments of the game.

“We figured, why not do some good for the community.”

Cyclones whirl into lime-light with charity

By J.L. GRIFFIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

February is not often thought of as a month to be on the lookout for cyclones, but this year it was different.

The Joplin Cyclones, a minor league football team comprised of former high school and college players, tumbled their way to a 12-8 victory on the last day of the month, all in the name of charity. And that's how it's going to be from now on.

After existing in relative obscurity for the last five years, the Cyclones are trying to bump up their notoriety by devoting all their games to worthy causes.

"We figured why not do some good for the community," said offensive captain John Chaney. "Heck, we were out here anyway."

Saturday's game was played in 30-degree temperatures to raise money for a local girl, Chandie Reed, who suffers from juvenile arthritis.

"Everything we do from here out we try to turn into something charitable," said Curtis Downton, Cyclones coach.

Played on the frozen field behind the Joplin Boy's and Girl's Club at Fourth and Comingo, the Cyclones rallied from an 8-0 point deficit to win the first game of the season against the Oklahoma Lawmen from Miami.

Used to playing against prison teams, the Cyclones will travel near or far for a chance to get on the gridiron.

"The prison teams are really nice," Chaney said. "It's a privilege for them to play, so they don't pick fights or they won't be allowed out again."

Normally the season doesn't start until July, but it's hard to turn down the opportunity to play full-contact football for these guys.

Having to be at work a couple hours after the game started didn't deter many from playing at



least the first half, or maybe even midway into the second half.

"Most of my guys are working guys; some of the guys will show up for one game and another group will show up for another game," Downton said.

Calling it "organized football" may be a stretch, but fans still turned out on one of the coldest days of the month to catch a little football in February. □



NICK PARKER/The Chart

A Joplin Cyclone player recovers from a hard hit at the close of the first half of Saturday's match-up with the Oklahoma Lawmen. The Cyclones took home a 12-8 win in a charity game at the Joplin Boy's and Girl's Club.

Cyclone head coach Curtis Downton gives direction to his offensive line before they take the field during Saturday's action against the Lawmen. The Cyclones will donate all game proceeds to charitable

NICK PARKER
The Chart